

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 1 January 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT LOUIS MCCALL

Dear Members;

I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to be the Wenonah Historical Society President for the 2007 year. I am truly humbled by Past President Don Ralston's achievements and all the rich personal history which he often shares. On behalf of the membership I want to thank Don for his untiring efforts and devotion to the Society and hope he continues to actively share with us many of his interesting tales for many years to come!

I am often amazed about the richness of our town's history and am sure it will be an even bigger asset to Wenonah in year's to come. We must not lose focus that we are the sole organization in town specifically designated to search out, preserve and share Wenonah's history. Thus our mission continues to be to enrich the lives of current and future generations by preserving the historical record of Wenonah and advancing interest and awareness in it's past. ...and of course to have a good neighborly time doing so! Our Historical Society, like any society by definition, is a collection of people with common interest, so I am asking each of you to do two things in the upcoming year: first- Please sign up and actively participate in one of our committees which we will discuss in our next meeting and secondly- I would like each member to try to bring at least one new member in by the end of 2007.

After all, we are also one of the best social groups that Wenonah has to offer!

For the 2007 year, I would like to continue the many achievements and projects already in motion or are ready to be started. These include the continuing pursuit of the restoration of our Community Center, a significant gem to our town, and the historical archiving project, a must for the preservation and documentation of the Society's assets.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

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

As for newer business, I intend to pursue with the membership some yet-to-be discussed new projects, including a to be proposed new Wenonah Historical Society publication, a "Wenonah Family Album," to be comprised of pictures and quotes obtained from members and our archives. I would also like to pursue additional grant monies from the New Jersey Historical Commission. These efforts should not only be good sources of financial strength, but can also be excellent vehicles to further our mission of

promoting the historical understanding and awareness of Wenonah.

Lastly, I want to make a personal plea to all of you, our members, to take the time and write-down a personal Wenonah family history and story and gather some pictures we can copy, as we need to save today what may not be available to us tomorrow. It is you, your memories and your pictures and artifacts that we need to preserve and share. I would like to ask each member to write a Wenonah historical interest type story of your memories and stories that we need to preserve. We would like to not just preserve them but share them in future newsletters and other publications such as in the proposed "Wenonah Family Album" and of course, own archives.

Lastly, I want to hear if you would like to entertain adding another annual social event to our calendar and what the ideas. Maybe it could be a wine and cheese before the Fourth of July's open house or bus trips to the casinos to see shows, or even a joint wine and cheese with some other organizations in town.

I look forward to seeing you at our January meeting on Friday the 12th and to another fun and productive year. Please bring your ideas!

Lou McCall

STATION RESTORATION

In view of the resignation by Dawn Human as town manager we can only wait and see the effect on the state grant and rehabilitation plans.

Wenonah 98 Years Ago - March 1909

The Mantua Grange No.39, P of H, held an interesting meeting in their hall in Wenonah, when they initiated in the first and second degrees the Marshall of the borough, Mr. John Drummer and wife.

Quite a discussion took place on the platform this morning among the commuters while waiting for the 7:40 train. The subject was license and no license. Some contended that there was as much liquor used in Wenonah as there was in a licensed town of its size. Others doubted this statement. Our columns are open if there is anyone that desires to refute this statement.

The fine weather of today brought out the automobiles in force.

You who are lovers of good sour kraut go to Daniels (Mantua). 8 cents a qt.

FOR SALE 95 cords of wood. Also six tons of hot bed hay. Thomas Dilkes

Mr. Buzby is enlarging his barn for his new four cylinder Jackson. He won't have to get out and push when he gets that.

Mr. Nathan Shaddock declares that he is the crack checker player instead of Walter Wentzell and says he will challenge him to play Saturday in the flag house.

The members of the Wenonah Women's Christian Temperance Union are endeavoring to replenish their treasury by each one making a dollar in some way. Mrs. Johnson is selling those useful canvas gloves to be worn while performing that necessary but rather disagreeable task of taking up ashes from the furnace and other rough chores about the place.

Mrs. Sweeten is keeping harmony with her name and is selling sweets in the shape of ginger snaps.

Four new houses are underway. The outlook for spring is excellent. At least fifty new houses are contemplated in the next few months.

The explosion at Wilmington was plainly heard here this morning.

A change in the trolley schedule will go into effect this Friday, but this will not change the time on the Mantua line.

Pan Dandy found half of a dollar note in Wenonah this morning which had been cut in two pieces by a wagon wheel. He is looking for the party who found the other half and he will either buy or sell.

The Automobile Club are getting their machines in order for an early spring run. Daniel Brown will make some of them look to their laurels.

CUSPIDORS both in tin and chysolite painted red or blue 12 cents Leppee, Opera House Block, Woodbury

Adam Knight was in Trenton yesterday at the state boulevard hearing. He said it was amusing to hear some of the New Yorkers telling Jerseymen what they need in the way of roads. It would be a fine thing for the millionaire New York auto owners to have a fine boulevard along the shore at the expense of the taxpayers of New Jersey. South Jersey was well represented at the hearing, the Grangers taking a determined stand against the project.

Officers Drummer and Parks arrested a Negro in Pitman Sunday evening. The man had been acting in a suspicious manner and tried to get away from the officers. He was brought to Wenonah and the Mayor questioned him as to where he was going and his purpose. He told many different stories and contradicted himself too often. He gave his name as Arthur Boldin. He was sentenced to thirty days in jail.

A large and enthusiastic crowd witnessed one of the most intensely and exciting basketball games ever played in Wenonah. The Central High School boys came to Wenonah, Saturday, confident in their ability to make our boys feel and look like thirty cents. Husky boys, that strutted around in their egotism, for they are independent champions, of Philadelphia. They almost doubly out weighed Wenonah Military Academy, but like the diamond, the Wenonah team was small, brilliant and intrinsic value and by cyclonic plays out-pointed the Central High by a score of 32 to 28. The game was rough and fast. Despite the weight and size of the visitors our boys were amply able to cover themselves with glory.

Woodbury Daily Times Woodbury, New Jersey mhw

Wenonah 98 Years Ago –April 1909

Our grange is purchasing more goods each year. The main thing which is being purchased now is fertilizer. (North Marion Avenue must have smelled very fragrant.) The grange held its session last night and the "Planting of corn to derive the best results was openly discussed."

The Academy relay team won second place at the University of Pennsylvania relay races at Franklin Field. Girard College with 1200 students beat the cadets by a few yards.

May evangelistic meetings will be held in the M.E. Church. Able speakers will be present. The ladies will serve free luncheons at 12 o'clock and at 6 p.m.

Remember the minstrel entertainment tomorrow night. The Lulu Band Orchestra and the Lulu Saxophone Quartette will assist the Wenonah Minstrel Club.

Cards are out for a dance to be given by Miss Henrietta Comey at the Woodbury Country Club.

James Carey is making much needed improvements in the drain of his cesspool. Mr. Carey is a citizen that believes in doing to others, as he would have them do unto him.

Mr. John Colbert has been made president of the farmer's Club and would like all members present to attend church in a body Sunday evening.

Dr. Harry Stout is having his icehouse repaired and painted so as to have it in shape for the next winter (5 East Mantua Avenue)

Nine new houses are in the course of erection. All the improvements seem to be on the West Side and if it continues to grow as at present it will soon eclipse the East Side by numbers and fine homes.

There was a noticeable sprinkling of lovers around Lake Cornelia Sunday afternoon. (This lake was on the East Side of what is now the Marion Avenue Bridge.)

The minstrel entertainment for the benefit of the library will be given in the armory of the

Academy Saturday evening. (The armory was located on the northwest corner of Marion Ave. and Cherry St.)

With the advent of spring, strangers will visit us and the appearance in general of the borough will determine whether they will settle with us or not. Every citizen should take personal pride in our town. Homes and yards should be at their best in the next months. The Park Committee should do something with the park.

There are still two beer arks which visit Wenonah every Wednesday. You can bet it is not the men who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow who patronize them. It is useless to argue whom drinks the "stuff" commonly called beer and whiskey.

Considerable kick is going on because the Park Committee threatens to close the walks across the park.

No town in jersey is as free from tramps as our borough. Marshall Drummer nabs them as they arrive and if the excuse is not very good the mayor sends them up the road. Our families are well protected and it seems generally known.

The Sewing Circle met at the home of Miss Margaret Farr yesterday.

George B. says everything is lovely when the goose hangs high (?)

All those who take part in the crucifixion are urged to be present at the rehearsal in the Presbyterian Church Friday night. (?)

For the month of March 122 books have been circulated. The three most read books have been First, Revolt of Ann Royal, Martin; Second, The Trail of the Lonesome Pine, Fox; Third, Lavender and Old lace, Myrtle Reed. -Mortie L.Stokes, librarian (she was librarian from 1902 until 1944.)

The ladies of the Sunbeam Club, of Wenonah will hold their sixth annual concert and reception in Green Street, North Woodbury. String music and dancing will add to the evening's enjoyment. Tickets can be had of any member for 15 cents.

Woodbury Daily Times Woodbury, New Jersey mhw

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 2 February 2007

YET ANOTHER WENONAH HISTORY

Wenonah was a housing development created by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company. This organization was a mix of men associated with local businesses, the West Jersey Rail Road and Philadelphia investors. The West Jersey tracks in Deptford Township below Woodbury had been realigned and a new station built called the new Mantua Station at Wenonah. This was sited in the middle of what was previously Isaac Stevenson's sweet potato field. This was the area proposed for the new town on the West Jersey Railroad. In December of 1870 the decision was made to form this land company and to buy 572 acres of land in this area for \$69,575. The members present at the meeting subscribed to half of this amount.

One of the men attending this preliminary meeting was William Fredrick Allen, Resident Engineer of the West Jersey Rail Road. He was the son in law of Thomas Jones Yorke, president of the railroad and director of the Land Company. Allen's role in the creation of Wenonah was vital as it was his plat plan that would be the guideline for the future evolution of this new town.

In this plan the focal point was to be a "boarding house" facing a two-block park area. Adjacent to this was the new railroad depot. The streets were laid out in a grid pattern, roughly north and south, east and west. Wenonah was an early example of a

railroad suburb that was established around a transportation node both to derive profit from the sale of land and to provide ridership for the railroad itself.

The proposed Wenonah House hotel was to be 45 by 52 feet, three stories high with a back building 26 by 40 feet surrounded by a veranda 12 feet in width. It was described as being Doric in style but the cupola on top gave it a distinctive Italianate style, very Victorian. Each room was

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to have water and gas, a luxury for this period. An interesting feature was a windmill to provide power to pump water into a tank on the roof.

Bids came in from as far away as Cape May City. One bid of interest for the "Boarding House at Mantua Station" was for a sum of \$15,800 and was signed by Sterling Clayton, guaranteed by E. Stokes Co. of Woodbury, dated April 3, 1871. The lowest bidder was Harden and Brother of Camden in the amount of \$15,000 for which they were awarded the contract.

In 1872, the new Wenonah House opened for its first summer season with Benjamin Packer, a local resident in charge. Although the town was sparsely populated with only ten houses the hotel was fully booked up for the season. Newspaper accounts give a glimpse into the activities of the boarding house. Mentioned were plays, cakewalks, pigeon matches, a turtle supper for fifty people and concerts. One such event is described in the local newspaper.

"The guests of the Wenonah House prior to closing enjoyed a reedbird supper, and the last hop of the season, impromptu. At the supper the reed-birds were invitingly imbedded in the only toast offered as if they were anxiously expecting appreciation, which they fully met with, in connection with the hot waffles and dressing of "sugar and spice and all that is nice." Every luxury was included in the amply spread table, and all did full justice to the repast, and were reluctant to leave the supper room radiant with brightness and good cheer. Dancing on the "light fantastic toe" was heartily enjoyed until the participants were well tired. This was followed by a tableaux and stair dance, so vivid, so real that all could participate in the mirth. The respected proprietor and his lovely wife have our warmest thanks for their cordial hearty efforts for the comfort and pleasure of their guests, and as we parted it was with the earnest wish and prayer that they might be encouraged for many years with the same well filled house of cultured and pleasant people".

Wenonah was never a "boom town" and has had its periods of depression. One such period was in the early 1880's. Bookings at the hotel became meager; houses built on speculation by the Land Company remained unsold. It was decided to hire a resident agent to create momentum to the land development. The man hired was Ephram J. Lloyd of Salem. He pursued his job with vigor, his first action was to persuade the Mantua Land and Improvement Company to get out of the hotel business and sell the Wenonah House. The sale was to an Ann Linen of Philadelphia and then to a Samuel Shreeve of Mt Laurel in the same year and finally to Mahlon Newton of Woodbury in 1884.

Newton was an experienced, young hotel manager. He entered the hardware business at the young age of eighteen and four years later opened and managed the Newton Hotel at Broad and Delaware Streets in Woodbury. The first new approach at the suggestion of Lloyd was that the hotel would be opened all year. Flyers were distributed which read "*GO TO WENONAH the new town on the West Jersey Rail Road 11 miles from Philadelphia before making arrangements for the summer or for the year No healthier location in the vicinity of Philadelphia fine rolling country and the best of water, boating and fishing.*".

In 1884 Newton opened the Wenonah House with a reception with one hundred invited guests. There was a stringed orchestra from Philadelphia, Chinese lanterns, flags and flowers. This set the stage for the coming season. There were elaborate dinners, tableaux, lectures, yachting parties and hops. General William Sewell, a frequent guest of the hotel, who was the supervisor of the West Jersey Railroad, on several occasions provided private cars to be added to the excursion trains for trips to the shore. This period of 1884 to 1887 was very successful.

Unfortunately the ownership by Newton ended in 1887 when the building and grounds were sold to Senator George Pfeiffer, Jr. of Camden for \$12,000. He was a successful businessman owning a coal and lumber business, also the water supply business for the city of Camden. His hotel experience was the ownership of a hotel at

Brown's Mill In-The-Pines. Business at the Wenonah House diminished rapidly, possibly because of absentee ownership and lack of interest. In 1890 the building remained empty and reflected poorly on the financial condition of the community. The newspaper wrote "*There is no probability that the hotel will open this season. As things go at present the Wenonah House is of no advantage either to the owner or to the borough.*"

Finally in May of 1891, there was a public sale of the House and its furnishings by M. Thomas and Son of Philadelphia. The sale was a disaster, only the furniture was sold. Charles Middleton of Philadelphia held a \$7,000 mortgage on the building and foreclosure soon followed. The building was put on the market and sold for \$5,000 to Stephen Greene of Philadelphia.

Stephen Greene was one of the early pioneers of Wenonah. He was the owner of Helfenstein, Lewis and Greene, one of the largest printing firms on the East Coast. Mr. Greene vacationed for several years in Wenonah with his family as a guest at the Wenonah House. In 1880 he purchased a large tract of land and built a large home with many outbuildings including a large barn, stables and a greenhouse suitable for him to go into the florist business. His love was Wenonah and he became very supportive of the growth and betterment of the new village. One large philanthropic gesture was the financing of the construction of the new Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1892, Stephen Greene created a syndicate incorporated as the "Wenonah Inn Company" made up of himself, Thomas Whitney Synnott, Dr. George Washington Bailey, J. Frank Shull, and Charles M. Wilkins. Mr. Synnott was the president of the Whitney Glass Works, Glassboro and had retired the year of the formation of the syndicate. Dr. Bailey, a Civil War veteran had been a medical doctor but because of overwork had health problems. He then went very successfully into the coal business and amassed a considerable amount of money. J. Frank Shull was the owner of the wholesale grocery firm of Shull, Wireback and Company, Philadelphia. Charles M. Wilkins was the owner of Patrick, Carter and Wilkins, manufacturer of electrical supplies.

Plans were formulated to build a new hotel on the site of the old Wenonah House, which was to be demolished. It was designed to accommodate one hundred fifty guests, three times as many as the old hotel. The total cost would exceed \$70,000, a considerable amount of money in that period. The paper reported *"a sufficient supply of water has been secured and the electrical apparatus is of the latest design, the plumbing, always one of the most important in a public house, has been put into the most competent hands."* There was a bowling alley, billiard room, barbershop, a 32 by 60 foot amusement room, and laundry and an engine-dynamo room."

The West Jersey Railroad started construction of a new "handsome" station as part of the agreement with the syndicate in their guarantee to build a new larger hotel. This station that opened in 1893 still stands today as the Wenonah Community Center.

Other improvements followed the 1892 construction of the Wenonah Inn. In 1894 servants' quarters were built on South Marion Avenue. Additional "shedding" for carriages and horses of the guests were erected on East Cherry Street. A large athletic field with a grandstand was laid out on East Cedar Street. An extensive sewage system was built not only for the hotel but also for the houses of the community. Remains of the system still exist today. A park area called "Camel Back" was created for the hotel patrons and the citizens of the town. This is now known as Comey's Lake, a Frank H. Stewart Estate acquisition. A wooded area on West Cedar Street called the "Glen" was cleared and "put into good order" for the visitors of the Inn. A new lake was formed at the foot of South Clinton Avenue with a large boathouse. This created accessibility to the Great Mantua Creek for canoeing which was quite popular during this period. This pond was called Greene's and later Parker's Lake. A small golf course was built extending from the recreational field to "Camel Back". Sidewalks were "flagged" replacing the old wooden walkways.

The hotel was an instant success and business was described as "booming". This brought back memories, to the townspeople, of the Wenonah House under the management of Mahlon Newton

in the 1880's. The staff consisted of a manager, chief clerk, room clerk, night clerk, chef, headwaiter, head cook, head engineer, head porter, master of ceremonies, waiters and bellboys.

On several occasions special trains were put on the railroad siding for large dances and special affairs for the convenience of the patrons. One such affair was the performance of an opera advertised in July of 1890. *"WENONAH INN, N.J. extraordinary event grand opera "FAUST" by Gounad sung in concert by the Wolffunger Grand Opera Company of Philadelphia chorus of 40 people"*.

Another interesting account was in 1895: *"A novel parade took place last Saturday afternoon by the guests of the Inn who have their teams here. There were about 35 turnouts and these were gaily decorated. The occupants carried flags and flowers while handsome horses held their heads high and seemed to feel as though they were engaged in the novelty as much as their owners. After parading through the borough they drove to Mantua and Woodbury"*.

In 1899 the Wenonah Inn Company sold their real estate holdings back to Stephan and Martha Greene for an unknown reason. It could have been that there was a growing apprehension that trains previously carrying guest to the Inn were now transporting them to seashore points. The railroads during this period had created spurs to most of the off shore islands giving access to the growing popularity of salt water bathing. The advent of the automobile after the turn of the century gave freedom to explore new vacation spots. Wenonah was no longer considered a summer resort.

In 1903, Stephen Greene started extensive restoration of the first floor of the building and the grounds. Rumors circulated that he was even going to build a large swimming pool. These changes seemed strange considering the dim outlook for the future of the building. These doubts were answered on September 20, 1904 when the Inn building opened under a new name – "The Wenonah Military Academy".

from the Milton H. Webb archives

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 3 March 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT LOUIS MCCALL

Dear Members;

The program for our next meeting will take us on a trip back in time to the high seas 150 years ago!!!

We are extremely pleased and honored to have member Pat Hart make a presentation to us during this month's meeting March 9, 2007 at 7:30 pm in the Wenonah Community Center.

All of those fortunate enough to be in attendance will experience the extremely unique opportunity of being taken back in time to a sea voyage that took place in 1857, exactly 150 years ago. Our voyage will be second-handed of course through a narration by Pat of the life and times of husband Jack's great-grandmother, Elenora Green. She was the wife of a clipper ship captain whose home port was Baltimore, who often sailed around the world. Remember at that time in history a trip around the world was a quite substantial voyage on the high seas. Especially as there was no Panama Canal to use as a short cut, the trip required going "around the Horn", a very dangerous and exacting passage.

Although the Hart's have a few general diaries of Jack's great-grandmother Elenora, Pat will read excerpts from the diary of a special voyage where she accompanied her husband on his ship's voyage around Cape Horn, and they were accompanied by one of their baby children.

Those in attendance will also be privileged to see many related artifacts that the Hart's are in possession of including a shawl the Captain gave his wife as a gift from a voyage to China along with period dishware, a silver mug from that era and pictures from the Captain's and Elenora's Homestead in Virginia.

On another topic mentioned at our last meeting, please gather up those photos, memories and stories for inclusion in the upcoming Wenonah

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Family Album. Many thanks to Don Davis for the excellent photos and stories already submitted.

I look forward to seeing you Friday March 9th at 7:30 pm.

HISTORIC WENONAH

The Wenonah Inn on South Clinton Avenue had a bowling alley.

In 1900 Stephen Greene, owner of the Wenonah Inn had a golf course laid out extending from the present Cedar avenue ball field to the Comey's Lake area.

The first improvement to the streets of Wenonah was laying down cinders from the West Jersey railroad and oyster shells brought in from Port Norris.

Originally the Wenonah Park was divided in half with Park Avenue running through its middle.

In 1911 there were 35 different clubs and societies in Wenonah.

A woman, Hannah Bossler, owned the first automobile in Wenonah. In 1900 she was the winner of a Locomobile in a picture puzzle contest offered by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

William Fredrick Allen, Chief Engineer of the West Jersey & Seashore Railroad, created the original street layout for Wenonah.

The grist mill at Wenonah Lake was started by Abraham Dilks before the Revolutionary War.

Jonathan Chew, owner of the "Stone House Farm" (South West Ave & Cherry St.) was a Tory Captain in the British Army during the Revolutionary War. He was captured and sentenced to death but was pardoned upon his exile to Canada.

There were 14 veterans of the Civil War living in Wenonah at the turn of the century.

Mantua Avenue was a gravel road until 1925.

The streetlights in Wenonah were gas until the 1920's.

There were three livery (horse) stables in Wenonah in the 1880's.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

THE WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY by Elm McCormick 1/7/77

To the youngster of this day the name means nothing. But to those who attended the institution in Wenonah, Gloucester County a few miles south of Woodbury, it's another world.

It still brings to mind days of warm friendships, studies under strict but pleasant conditions, parties, military balls, and of course, athletics, and everything else which went with a well operated educational institution.

Railroad tracks toward the shore still pass the remaining part of the immense athletic grounds. Here Academy teams strove against other private school groups and some of the better high school teams.

The period: in the early part of the 1900's to 1935. To attend Wenonah Military was the dream of many a youth.

To don the military blue of the Academy, to march with newly made friends, to play on the athletic squads or just to be part of what was one of the best military complexes of its time—that was something to be desired.

Many a boy reached that stage, where his entry wish was fulfilled. And he was the better for it. Faculty members were learned in their subjects. Coaches knew thoroughly the sports they taught.

One of their games was polo. Edgar W. Holton, class of 1924, recalled, "we were so good that one year we beat the championship Army team at West Point Military Academy."

Holton, now retired and an active member of the Woodstown Rotary Club is president of the alumni association, which meets twice a year.

Herb Pennock, one-time famed pitcher for the Athletics and the New York Yankees, did his school day hurling at Wenonah. Dozens of others who had their beginning at the Academy went on to greater recognition in college or with independent athletic groups. It was at a time, however, when only a small percentage of scholastic graduates sought higher education.

Holton played with the semi-pro Penns Grove Red Devil footballers. Under an assumed name, of course as he was still with the Academy team. Other Salem County boys were there.



Brought to mind by Holton were the Shuman boys (they were hot in the three main sports, football, basketball, baseball), and Jim Goslin, brother of the late big league diamond star Goose Goslin. There were a number from this county over the years who were athletically

inclined in a fiercely competitive athletic world. Some of them did not flash to the extent of drawing the headlines.

It wasn't just the athletic life of the Academy community that concerns Holton now. He's interested in keeping track of the many living grads that make up the alumni rolls.

"Many of our boys were from this area," he said, "New Jersey, Pennsylvania and nearby, and yet we had them from all over. Florida, California, Maryland, Washington, Connecticut, Idaho and places even outside the country. The students came from everywhere."

He recalled two Mexicans who were at Wenonah in the 20s, and several boys living

in the town of Wenonah found the private school so to their liking that they transferred from the public school classes.

Hap Farley, long-time political leader in Atlantic City, rarely misses one of the alumni gatherings. Several others come long distances to be with their classmates of 50 and more years ago.

Holton recalled that when their spring meeting was held at the shore last year, Bill Woodburn came from Riverside, Cal. So that the business of association can be carried on more readily, all officers are from this area.

Bill Graupner is secretary. One of the better athletes at the Academy, he had been just as good at Collingswood High School. He continued his athletic participation after leaving Wenonah

Michael S. Cettei (right away you think of the Salem Community College) was in the '34 class. Roy Bloomingdale, active in Pitman sports, kept up his playing field participation. So did Nick Caterina at Vineland.

A.W. Chandler is now retired as a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy. Another who entered the service Kenneth E, Dilks, '31, lieutenant colonel, retired, has his home in Thailand.

Athletics continued to be a part of Ray Coble's (Woodbury) after he departed the Academy. Retired at the DuPont Chambers Works, Nicholas V, DeLucia, Penns Grove, '35, now lives in Runnemede.

Bill Graupner, Collingswood, in the '28 class, went in for officiating after a brilliant career in sports. A Swedesboro Higher, Cleveland Sholders, was a grid performer after entering in '34. Another in the field of athletics was Carl Tripician, '26 of Margate.

All-rounder (any sport you wanted to name) Maurice P. Shuman (they called him Kid) went to Peddie Institute at Hightstown, became a coach there and finally head master,

He was a Salem boy. Footballer William B, Vanneman, '17, now living in Wilmington, recently published his first book.

Some of the earlier meetings of the old grads were devoted to the possibility of restoring the Academy to the stature of former days. But no buildings remained. The cost of construction was prohibitive.

Holton recalled how officials would tell of the school's catalogue being sent far and wide. It included a thought, "*We teach boys how to live.*" Remembered too on the front wall of the study hall was the inscription,

"He conquers who conquers himself".

While the Wenonah Military Academy as the oldsters remember it is no more, there's still a plaque to note the passing of the once famous institution. "*Lest we Forget*" it reads. The dates, "1902 – 1935 are followed by "Fond Memories, the Alumni Association."

In recent years a display of Academy memorabilia was set up in the Gloucester County historical Society building in Woodbury. Graduates provided most of the material, which they had treasured for y ears.

The alumni members have something to look forward to. Holton has sent out word that the annual spring gathering will be held on May 14. It'll be at the accustomed shore point, the Port-O-Call.

Moze Segal, who was playing for Paulsboro High at the time, recalls a Wenonah visit. He was both a baseball player and a track teamer. The diamond match was halted for a couple of minutes while Segal went over to the track area where the Oilers and Academy teams were in conflict. Moze got his jumps in, went back to the ball field and the tilt was resumed. It was several years ago, you know, he said, and the scores, or who won have escaped him.

Salem County Sunbeam— January 7, 1977

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 4 April 2007

MESSAGE FROM
VICE PRESIDENT
BARBARA CAPELLI

Dear Members;

Spring has finally arrived here in our sunny Wenonah. Spring brings new life, re-growth and reminds us that warm weather is almost here to stay. This first Historical Society meeting of spring will bring us a fun and educational presentation by Judy Thompson and Charla Newland, members of the Quilter's Group of Wenonah. They will share with us information on the Wenonah Commemorative Quilt that marked the 100 year anniversary of the train station (1993). Judy and Charla will also share with us a photo scrapbook showing the progression of the quilt. I hope to see you all Friday and don't forget to bring a friend!

Now, back to thoughts of spring. Spring and summer can also be a great time for spring cleaning! So, perhaps somewhere in your attic or basement you'll come across some great family heirloom or something that is historically relative to our great Wenonah. Possibly, this prized possession will elicit some great memories of family and friends you have adored. I think it is very important to our future to reflect and remember times past and where we came from.

Maybe a favorite story, photograph, or item from long ago can be shared with your children and if we

are lucky enough maybe you will share it with all of us at our June picnic. From now until June, hopefully you can find time to clean out those closets in search of some special piece in time that will recall special memories dear to your heart.

I can remember many evenings as a child that my dad would entertain us with old slide shows of family, friends, and special events. Those slide shows were filled with great family stories and memories of lives past.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

President	Louis McCall
Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Hon. Trustee	Lucy Schulz

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

I was always particularly interested in our family's origin and what life was like when my grandparents and great grandparents grew up. I think more families need to bring back these memories and stories of family history for their children. After all, without those stories being told, they will soon be lost forever.

So, whether it is something you can share with our group or not, make sure to have a fun family night of history. If you should come across

something particular to the preservation of Wenonah's history or even some great memories of times past in Wenonah, please make sure to come to June's picnic and share your treasures. Eventually, we'd like to document these stories and items in a book about Wenonah.

Therefore, let's welcome spring, its renewal of all those things living and let's not forget all the people, friends, and family that have shaped us and made us who we are today.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

Wm. C. Cattell has bought the land recently sold by the Mantua Land and Improvement Company to J.C. Stevenson on the west side of Mantua Creek. A party of capitalists will organize and at once lay out a beautiful cemetery, which is very much needed in our midst.

Gloucester County Democrat
December, 6, 1900

Editor's Note:

What was to become known as the Wenonah Cemetery did organize the following year. The article said "thirty acres of land were purchased between here and Mantua and will at once be put in shape. This will be one of the prettiest cemeteries in this section. The trustees were Dr. Mordecai Price of Philadelphia; Dr. H.A. Stout, H.G. Peddle and Wm. C. Cattell of Wenonah; Miss S.R. Chew of Mantua, and D.O. Watkins of Woodbury.

There were nearly a hundred people assembled in the M.E. Church last night to welcome their new pastor, Rev. Mr. Cobb and family. The evening was exceedingly pleasant with music, and the sociability of the people made the new pastor feel as if he were among friends. After partaking of ice cream and cake the people left, all wishing the new "Dominie" and his family a pleasant happy year.

Both our stores have fine stocks of garden seeds etc on hand for early spring planting.

Our people who have been residing out of town during the winter months are returning to their residences here. (Wenonah was still considered a summer resort, by many, at this late period. They resided in Camden and Philadelphia in the winter.)

It is said there was a lively time at the annual school meeting held at Noblitt's Hall last night. There were five candidates. The appropriation of \$2,300, which has been asked for the past few years, was endorsed.

R. H. Clark has erected a new grape arbor at his home in "Browntown" and expects to erect a new shed when the weather settles. (Browntown was the first block on West Willow Street.)

The grounds of the Inn are being put in shape for the coming season. (The Inn was the Wenonah Inn, east of the Borough Park.)

Turner and McCormick's store was a pleasing sight on Saturday filled with a fine line of fresh southern fruit.

Constable Drummer captured two suspicious characters loitering about town about 12:30 last night, and locked them up until morning. They made the excuse that they were looking for a friend.

After months of agitation enough interest in the Fire Company has been aroused to form such an organization, which was effected last night. A number of representative citizens meet and after weighing the matter well, elected councilman W.B. Oat, President; Lewis Buzby, Secretary and Treasurer; T. W. Savage, Chief, and Joseph Truncer, foreman.

What is everybody's business is nobodies business and for years all have been fireman and though we have been very free from disastrous fires, the lack of organization, so that each one would know his place and fill it in the least possible time, would have been seriously felt had a conflagration broken out. Now all will lend their assistance as before but there will be someone in authority to direct and use the brain and muscle of our stalwarts to the best advantage.

The decision of the Democrats to put a ticket in the field this spring has put the Republicans on the anxious bench as to who the nominees will be. No one seems to know until Saturday night, when the citizen's caucus will be held.

That our borough is a healthy place is proven by the fact that nearly all our doctors are dentists. The death rate is hardly mentionable and there is very little sickness. The population is increasing all the time.

Officer Drummer was not so successful in capturing the last man he went after. In company with officer Dopson and Deputy Savage, he started after John Tilden at Jericho wanted for resisting an officer in Woodbury about a year ago. The two officers entered the house but Tilden's father denied that his son was in the house. One started up the stairs and the other, it is said, looked in the room where the son was hiding but did not see him, when Savage called out "there he goes" and heard some one drop from the window. A hot chase ensued in which the officers shot at the fleeing darky nine times but he waded through a large pond, nearly to his waist, and escaped while they were groping around.

Bachelors and old maids, those very necessary adjuncts to all properly managed towns, as they always know the theory of bringing up children and other duties are remarkable for their scarcity in our borough. We have, though, some comely widows and the prettiest young girls in the State - this is a fact strongly attested by the young men thereabouts.

The best on earth Wenonah corn and tomatoes Turner and McCormick Wenonah, NJ.

The borough's nomination election will be held Saturday at the land office, tomorrow evening to name a Mayor for two years, two members of council for three years, one commissioner of appeal for three years, a pound keeper and Justice of the Peace.

The plumbers are about the busiest people in the town this time of year.

L. F. Feitner, a clerk for Job Scott, is nursing a gathering on his finger from running a large splinter in it.

The most unique form of entertainment provided for our people for some time was a "Stocking Social" held at the residence of Mrs. Cookson last evening. It was in charge of one of the Missionary Committees of the Presbyterian Church and was most successful. The Orchestra and Mandolin Club furnished entertainment for a while and refreshments took up the remainder of the evening. Each person who

attended was supplied with a small silk hose into, which was placed two pennies for each size of stockings worn. The receipts amounted to about \$22.50. The inference is very small hosiery -worn.

The need of a baseball team here this summer is already being felt, and some steps are being taken toward the formation of such a club. We have the material and it would take very little money to put up a good team in the field and we could have some amusement on Saturday afternoons. Push the good work along.

A carload of trees arrived yesterday to beautify the already pretty property of Stephan Green. (These trees, white pine, still exist particularly on South Princeton Avenue and significantly Pine Street.)

Daniel W. Brown is laying a new stone pavement in front of his property on West Mantua Avenue. (Victor Anderson's property)

Always on the watch for anything crooked or suspicious, Officer Drummer tells that he was almost sure he was about able to swoop in on a daring burglar early yesterday morning. As a rule thieves and thugs give him a wide berth knowing well his reputation for fearlessness in capturing them, and so when he saw lights in the home of Dr. Harvey he suspected at once that some daring desperado had foolishly entered his preempted domain to do violence. Accordingly plans were arranged for a surprise of the wrong doers, and just as the swoop was about to take place the timely discovery was made that the doctor and family had arrived home late last night from Newport News, Va. where they had been spending the winter.

The annual reception of the Monday Club was held at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. H. Lake Gilmour last evening and was a brilliant affair. Vocal and instrumental music and a social hour occupied the attention of the guests for a while when a beautiful collation was served by Caterer Claphan of Woodbury. (The Monday Club still exists today.)

Fred Middleton and Miss Margaret Farr are the graduates of our school, being the only ones passing the county examination just concluded.

Schools of herring are reported in the creek and the boys are having delightful fishing. (This was an annual event in Wenonah for many years) The butchers say they will be glad when the shad season is over.

The automobile, which went through here yesterday, scared several horses and had many

craning their necks to see what was causing all the excitement.

Ice dealer Joe Warner has put his wagon on for the summer to serve the people.

A lady demonstrator is at Richard Clark's store in the interest of Walker's Gasoline Borax soap that is said to avoid so much hard work in the wash.

The new bicycle ordinance has been posted forbidding riding on the sidewalks.

New trestlework has arrived for Dr. Bailey's coal yards. (Across from the firehouse.)

The rehearsal for the musicale and cantata last evening was all that can be desired. The young misses that are in charge of the affair are much pleased. The admission is only three cents, the proceeds to be turned over to the church.

Hiram Leap has received another bag of seed from the grange, which he is kindly distributing among his friends and neighbors, who have gardens (The Grange Hall was on North Marion Avenue, originally Joseph Noblitt's Hall, later the American Legion Hall.)

Quite a number of our people witnessed the solar eclipse here this morning. The weather was clear and a good view of the phenomenon could be had.

J.L.Drummer has just completed a nice boardwalk in front of postmaster Wilson's property. (It was quite common at this period to have wooden sidewalks called boardwalks.)

Rev. R.H. Gage will give an illustrated lecture of the tour of the continent made by he and Edward Farr in the Presbyterian Church tonight. (They spent half a year in Europe.)

A number of G.A.R. men from this section are to attend services in the M.E. Church on Sunday afternoon. (The Grand Army of the Republic was a Civil War veteran's organization.)

Mr. Lewis, the lessee of the Wenonah Inn, is making arrangements to open it sometime this month.

The electric light wires seem to be burning the tops of the trees in several places about town.

It seems your correspondent was wrongly informed regarding the dog of Dr. Stout having symptoms of rabies. Dr. Stout accounts for the bloody and disheveled appearance of his dog from the fact that the animal received a laceration of one ear while chasing through the swamp, which bled freely and covered its jaws with blood and dust

Woodbury Daily Times - Milton Webb archives

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 5 May 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT
LOU MCCALL

Dear Members;

Please Pray for Sean McQuade's Full Recovery

I believe few of us would argue that Wenonah is one of the "richest" places to live based on history, family and volunteerism. Many of us know the families in town that have become part of the town's fabric. Many are our fellow Historical Society members, who like yourself, exemplify the family values that have built our community and differentiate it so. Unquestionably the Forsman family is included in that fabric.

It was a tremendously disturbing and sad day when we learned of the April 16th horrific shooting and senseless death and violence that incurred that day on the Virginia Tech campus. We were all overcome when we heard about it and speechless when many of us quickly found out that one of our member's families and closest of friends was so tragically affected by the Virginia Tech massacre.

Chuck and Lorrie Forsman's grandson Sean, a senior at VT and just two weeks away from graduation, son of Jody who grew up here in Wenonah, was shot in the face on campus by the gunman. I believe Jody and Grandmom and Grandpa would easily and proudly say Sean has

always been a model son, grandson, student and athlete. It seems like only yesterday that I remember Sean being that sweet little kid in diapers. Horrifically, Sean, like the others shot that day clearly did not deserve what happened to them that tragic day.

Sean, now 22 and a senior majoring in mathematics, was in that German language class when the gunman entered and started shooting, killing or injuring 20 of the 24 students in the class.



Grandpa, Grandmom and Mom rushed off to Sean's bedside as soon as it happened and have kept a constant vigil.

We all hoped and prayed as Sean went from making it through the first hours, then days and now weeks. Today Sean remains the last person hospitalized with injuries from the Virginia Tech shootings and just recently was upgraded to good condition.

I would like to ask all of you to continue to keep Sean, Jody, Chuck and Lorrie and all of the Forsman family in your prayers asking God for a full and complete recovery as soon as possible.

You can learn more of Sean's tremendous struggle and updated details, including information for fundraisers to help Sean on a web site set up to help disseminate such information at: www.seanmcquade.faithweb.com

Currently in the works are plans for putting together a dinner/dance "VT Hokie Night" to raise funds for Jody and Sean. Please keep June 28th open. More information will follow as Vicki is just getting it off the ground.

The recent family photo to the left shows (left to right) Sean, sister Morgan, Mom Jody, and Grandpa Chuck and Grandma Lorrie.

PROGRAM FOR MAY 2007

Patricia (Clunn) Wellingham-Jones grew up in Wenonah during the '40s and '50s. Her father was Norman Clunn, a regional bank president. The book she wrote and donated to us about her youthful experiences has been used as a Historical Society fund-raiser for quite some time. For our program this month Pat will relate some of her collection of poetic stories. Most are reflections of childhood memories while living in Wenonah..

In her poems she refers to her Wenonah experience "at a time of more woods, only the lake to swim in, and fewer cars". Pat's poems should bring back happy memories to those native to Wenonah and be of great interest to our members who have adopted Wenonah as their own. .

THE LITTLE HARDWARE STORE AROUND THE CORNER

3 EAST MANTUA AVENUE

Levander Bateman built the store building in 1884. Very little information on him is available other than he operated a general grocery store on the premises. This was a short-lived enterprise as the store and property were deeded to Richard J. Clark in September of 1888.

The store was expanded with honest goods and honest prices. The stock consisted of dry and fancy goods, notions, furnishings, boots, hats, caps etc. During this period he was in competition with Turner and McCormick who had similar goods. He outlasted them and eight other competitors until 1912. He was quite active in the community serving on the town council and various church boards. His

sons Herbert and Jim were born in the house. Later Herbert would operate the coal yard business at Maple Street and the railroad where the borough public works garage is today. Jim Clark became a semiprofessional baseball player

The newly formed People's Rural Telephone Company put their "central office" in his store serving the thirty telephones within the town. Five years later when the Delaware and Atlantic Telephone Company wanted to house their exchange in his building Clark refused them permission because they wouldn't provide an operator.

Richard Clark eventually sold the business and the building to John Madara. He was a glass blower at Whitney Glass Works in Clayton. He continued the dry goods and grocery business successfully until 1920 when he sold it to a Norman Brown.

The business continued under Brown's leadership until 1925 when it went up for public sale. The advertisement for the sale gives insight into the business. Listed was the store stock of shoes, hosiery, hardware, notions, dry goods, groceries, a meat cutter, refrigerator display, and

everything to be found in a general store. The ad said "This is one of the best residential and business properties in town located at the Wenonah station and across from the Military Academy Park".

Bill Seiders at this time had a hardware store in the northern part of the Grosscup building, being formerly owned by John Viereck. He was seeking a new location. Milton Webb, a salesman for Winchester-Simmons Hardware Company, was persuaded by him to go into partnership in the 3 East Mantua Avenue building and to create a new hardware store. Mr. Webb, with the consent of his wife, also was talked into moving to town. They moved into the apartment next to what would become the hardware store. Soon after moving they

were assessed \$500 for the concrete paving on Mantua Avenue which was their welcome to the town.

They called the store "THE LITTLE HARDWARE STORE AROUND THE CORNER".

The Winchester Simmons Company was the forerunner of our present True Value, Ace

and other hardware chains. The stock was quite varied: sporting goods, tools, hardware cutlery, paints and building materials. The barn in back was made a warehouse. The enterprise was quite successful despite the depression. However in 1935 the academy closed and this was a disaster to all the businesses in town and the area. The store closed in 1937.

The store was then leased to Mr. A.H. Williams who opened up a Fairlawn grocery store which was unsuccessful and closed in two years. After this Charlie Hill opened a hobby shop, which went out of business in 1940. The store was then turned into an apartment unit. During this period Mary Bilderback, formerly a piano teacher at the academy, taught music in the second floor. Many children from Wenonah started their musical careers with her.



In 1949 Mr. Webb sold the building to Jim and Eleanor Ross. Eleanor's father was Charlie Hohlweg who owned Charlie's, later renamed the Tall Pines Inn. Jim and Eleanor successfully created the Jim-El Sweet Shoppe, which was in business for fifteen years. This was basically a luncheonette and coffee shop serving breakfast and lunch. Many years later Eleanor after returning from Florida opened up a similar shop in Swedesboro under the same name.

After this it became Marge's luncheonette under the ownership of Marjorie and Bill Fox. At one time Bill Fox had a riding academy in Wenonah. Marge's became an institution in Wenonah. In the morning for breakfast there was an influx of workers from Atlantic City Electric, Bell Telephone and other locals. For lunch were those from Marmac and Newton Tool Works and the schoolteachers. It was a gathering place for the community, So many fond memories. Sadly Marjorie died of cancer but fortunately Bill Fox's sister Gladys Clark was able to take over the management of the store. Interesting is the fact that Gladys' husband was Herb Clark who was born in the building and whose father was Richard Clark the early owner.

The next owners were George and Jane Bowker who ran the business under the name of The Carriage Shoppe. They ran it for several years but Jane's ill health caused it to have to close. Several attempts were made to reopen but unsuccessfully. Realtor Roy Duffield then bought the building and did extensive renovations. In 1989 he leased the store part to Mary K Hair Design who have conducted an outstanding business there since that time.

The building over the years has been one of the focal points and historic centers of the town. Indeed it's message is that it would be good to have a coffee shop again as we did years ago. This is something that is lacking in our community. For those who remember, we know.

Archives of Milton H. Webb

RECOLLECTIONS BY MILTON WEBB

The railroad held a great fascination for the kids of town. There was nothing more awesome than the third rail that carried the electricity to propel the

trains. On several occasion a dog would get too close and that was the end of the ball game or it would be severely burned. Each year a representative of the railroad would come to school and lecture the students on the danger of this potential killer. We were told there was more electricity in the third rail than the electric chair at Trenton. Lois Fink, who was noted for his intelligence, doubted this and spread the word that the agent was lying to us. Unfortunately there was no way to disprove this theory and it was a mystery for years.

Many a penny was put on the tracks to be flattened out becoming quite a collector's item. The well-equipped boy, along with his marbles, carried a flattened coin. The meaning was not as great with the girls of the class.

The railroad station was a haven in the wintertime, a great place to get warm. In the middle of the waiting room there was a big steam radiator that heated many a pair of cold gloves, Mrs. Phallis, the station mistress was always very nice to the kids and never objected to us coming in the station. Probably she was lonely and liked to have company. This must have been a tradition as Mr. Tuft, a stationmaster for many years, also was a kind person. I didn't know him as he was before my time.

The Phallis family lived in the apartment in the station. They were very big, tall people and it is a wonder that they all fit in to so small a space.

It was with great sadness that the steam trains were replaced with diesel locomotives. It just wasn't the same. Steam engines blew off big clouds of vapor and emitted black sulfur smelling clouds of smoke. Even the whistle seemed more commanding. Soon after the diesels arrived passenger service ended.

So many times we went to Philadelphia on the train. We liked to go to the foot of Market Street in Camden and get on the ferry to Philadelphia. You would walk up the hill to Front Street and take the trolley. The alternative was to get off in Camden and take the bridge train and subway.

We went to Woodbury High School on the train, walked up Cooper Street every morning. Passed by Ace Motors, Snelbakers, The Woodbury Times building.

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 6 September 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT
LOU MCCALL

Dear Members;
Welcome Back!

PORCH PARTY FRIDAY SEPT 14TH 7:00PM

We are all looking forward to a fun filled and interesting year. First, Vicki and I are looking forward to again hosting and seeing all of you at this month's porch party at our home at 300 East Mantua Avenue on Friday the 14th at 7:00 pm to kick off our Fall schedule. Speaking during the meeting will be Karl Anderson on conservation in Wenonah. Refreshments and snacks will be served. We hope to see you there and remember, **start time 7: 00 PM!**

SUMMER 2007 ROUND UP

As you may or may not know, the theme for the 2007 July 4th again celebrated Wenonah's rich history. Our members were well represented in the patriotic ceremonies and in orchestrating the set-up and running of the open house historical exhibit "In the Beginning" at the Community Center. The exhibit was very well done and well attended. I have heard a lot of compliments about it. Very special thanks to all who helped on the Fourth, including but surely not limited to Betty Rose, Pat Sole, Helen Sheppard and Jo Dominy.

WENONAH FAMILY ALBUM

Related to Jack Sheppard and Vicki's speeches on the Fourth is the

importance of the need to document and preserve what we have today before it is gone. I again urge you to please take the time to compile some photos and stories/memories you cherish and want to share with future generations of you and/or your family living in Wenonah. Please give them to Barb Cappelli or myself so we may compile them in order to safeguard one of our richest natural resources-our history.

WHS OFFICERS 2007

President	Louis McCall
Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Hon. Trustee	Lucy Schulz

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

With Deepest Regrets – Our condolences to Betty and the MacLeod family on the passing of her husband Doug during the summer. He will be missed but he will always remain one of Wenonah's finest.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

OCTOBER 12th: Paul Stankard ~ glass arts

NOVEMBER 9th: South Jersey Ghost Research ~they're ba-ack!

DECEMBER 14th: Christmas Party!

WENONAH SCHOOL
FALL DISPLAY

In partnership with the Gloucester County Historical Society, the first display for the school year will begin on September 12, 2007. The theme will be about Native Americans, with the main focus on the Lenape tribe living in and around our area. Artifacts on display will include arrow and spearheads, axes, smoking pipes, hoes, clay bowls, pottery shards as well as information on this subject. The exhibit will continue through mid November.

You are invited to view the exhibit during school hours. Display cases are in the main entrance on North Clinton Avenue. Hopefully you will find this display both interesting and informative.

HISTORICAL FACTS

Prior to 1875 Wenonah children went to the Mantua school, and it was not thought a hardship for them to walk the couple miles there and back. After 1875 for some reason it was decided to send the children to the Monongahela School in Deptford, which was located about three miles east of Wenonah in a farming district.

The parents hired Charlie Buckman, who ran the flourmill that then stood at the foot of what is now called Warner's Pond, to carry the children back and forth in his one-horse stage about a dozen children attended the Monongahela School

Wenonah Historical Society Activity – Summer of 2007

by Jack C. Sheppard Sr.

Well as much as it pains me to say it the summer of 2007 is all but over, but what a summer it was. Great weather for summer lovers like me with an outstanding Fourth of July. Belated congratulations are due Betty Rose who chaired the open house display in the Community Center along with the many member volunteers who assisted her. Also kudos to Pat Sole who set up the fund-raiser display and sold many items during the open-house period.

For those who missed the event the theme was “The Beginning”, especially the railroads and the part they played in the creation of Wenonah. Worthy of particular note were the following photographs and displays that were featured;

- A photo of the West Jersey railroad track route prior to 1866 via what is now Jefferson Avenue. The tracks were adjacent to Wenonah Lake crossing the Mantua Creek at “Clay Hill”. Also a plaque containing a cross-section of rail from that route. (both items contributed by member Carol Campbell)
- A large (36” X 48”) map of the Wenonah area between 1770/1870 showing owner’s names of farms that became Wenonah. The current street layout is superimposed on the drawing.
- Photos of the first Wenonah station (circa 1866), the current station (circa 1893) and other stations including North Woodbury, Woodbury, Pitman, Glassboro and Clayton.
- An exhibition of “HO” gauge model trains provided by former Wenonah resident Len Morgan.
- Photos of the Wenonah House Hotel (circa 1872) that became the Wenonah Inn (circa 1890) that of course became the Wenonah Military Academy (circa 1904).
- An aerial view of Wenonah with the Military Academy in the center.

The summer of 2007 also saw continuing gains in the creation of the WHS Museum in the Community Center building. Julie Ream and her volunteers continued the cataloguing of Military Academy artifacts and photos. For those who may have forgotten what Julie is doing, the work consists of identifying the various historic objects and

photographs, mostly but not entirely Military Academy, entering the information in the computer, and then suitably storing the materials in the various boxes, files, closets and shelves available to us.

I find it advisable to remind the membership from time to time that the “Museum” being created cannot be the kind you normally think of when the word “museum” is mentioned. Due to the nature and location of the second floor space with the single narrow and winding access stairway and lack of fire protection facilities, open public access to the collection is out of the question. Instead the materials will be readily retrievable for display in the first floor space, or through computer access, or both, and possibly by links to the library and the school. The other advantage the repository provides is the ability to receive and store historic materials from contributors so items of Wenonah history will no longer leave town in a trash receptacle, as may have happened too-often in the past.

Lastly, the Borough performed some curb installation and street paving activity adjacent to the station during the summer. However at this writing there is still no definite timetable for repairs and improvements to the building itself. According to Borough Engineer David Kreck any such rehabilitation activity will not occur until 2008 or later. Considering the deplorable condition of parts of the station, (birds are actually nesting in holes in the gable-end woodwork), our Society may want to consider taking the lead in providing emergency repairs ourselves. Could be by volunteer work, financial contributions, or some combination of both.

Comments by Chairperson Betty Rose

Many of the viewing public commented favorably on the total exhibit, various articles of particular interest to them and they were happy to see old documents, discover facts they were unaware of pertaining to Wenonah and its growth.

The focal point of the exhibit was an old enlarged map of farm land (which would become Wenonah) overlaid with the layout of proposed building lots, Incorporation papers for the Mantua Land and Improvement Company and an Aerial view of the

early town all helped to draw the viewers interest. As the theme of the exhibit was Wenonah – In the Beginning, it featured many photos and written material pertaining to the town and how it evolved.

Many guests commented in a positive way about this event in general and each had favorites they enjoyed viewing. The ten oldest homes on the Wenonah Historical Society register were well received and led visitors to inquire on how to register and obtain a plaque. The large display of old photos drew a great deal of interest. No positive identification of any photo took place but the viewers seemingly enjoyed viewing them, especially the Victorians who were dressed to the nines in the heat of summer.

Over 200 people attended our “open-house” event, many from out of town, one from Vancouver, Canada, several from Spartanburg, SC, one from Charlotte, NC, one from Melbourne, Australia, one from Sarasota, FL., and four from PA. Our new guest book served us well! As we all know, celebrating Independence Day, Wenonah style is full of activities so it is all the more gratifying when we have a large number of the public take the time to visit our exhibit each year, obviously there are many people interested in revisiting the past, in and around Wenonah.

Sincere thanks to the many members who helped make this event possible by volunteering to help on this hectic, but fun-filled day.

Vicki McCall's Comments on the Fourth

Vicki was the featured speaker during the Patriotic Ceremonies. She spoke on growing up in Wenonah. I would like to share with you an excerpt of her speech that day:

“We learned the most about our home when we visited Wally Farr who was the first of 6 children born in the house in 1891. Our son Sean was the next generation to be born at the house in 1995. Wally shared many stories of Wenonah. Growing up in a town where young boys loved the woods, muskrat hunting, and canoeing from Wenonah to Cooper River. His shared experiences from the past made me realize that what stand out as the MOST important feature of this town are its people.”

Our friends and neighbors are the fabric of this place we call home. It is the Jack Sheppard's who we all have honored today for his tireless dedication to this town, it is the Chuck Forsmans and Bevilacquas and Frank Eggerts who spend endless hours making sure all future generations enjoy the Wenonah of their childhoods with the endless trails, forts, streams, and lakes. It is the Rachael Knissels who put us to shame with her constant tending of the gardens around the train station; it is Mr. Ehlers walking through the park every morning rain or shine, stopping to speak to neighbors, the crossing guard, as we are taking our children to school. It is Kathy Ralston who taught and mentored many of us here and her husband Don Ralston whose heartfelt prayers from a bible given to him by his mother when he went to war. It is Lucy Schultz who has lived in this town longer than anyone here. She still remembers when Cedar/Langston Field was a racetrack complete with racehorses. She was fortunate enough to actually attend dances at the Military Academy.

For all of you new to this town, take the time to say hello to these new neighbors. They have the stories, the fabric that binds this town together as a community. Do NOT miss the opportunity to get to know those who have guided and nurtured this town for so long and with so much love.

The roots of this town also lie with those who are no longer with us. It is Milton Webb who knew more secrets about this town and more history than anyone would think possible for one man's brain! It is the Victor Anderson's, the Harry Schroeder's, and the Doug Macleod's. It is Jane Ramsay who brought me into the fabulous and interesting fold of the Wenonah Historical Society...And for the unknowing, this group can party with the best of them. So get on board and pay your dues and be a part of the history of this town! OK....that's my plug for the day....

The bottom line is that this town is a community because of its people;...it is held together by a blending of the past with visions for the future. It is all of you here today who somewhere in the back of your head are humming the words to the Boss's song” This is your hometown”

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 7 October 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT
LOU MCCALL

Dear Members;

It was great to see everyone on September 14 at our now traditional opening meeting of the year at our Porch Party. We had a great evening in spite of the threat of rain. Everyone enjoyed the slide presentation by Karl Anderson. Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments. People stayed into the wee hours of the morning, so I take that as a sign folks enjoyed themselves.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the October 12th meeting at the Community Center. World-renowned artist Paul Stankard, whose family has roots in Wenonah, will share his talents with us as he speaks about Glass art. For anyone who has not experienced hearing Mr. Stankard, you are in for a very uplifting evening. His works are a reflection of his true eye for the beauty and miracles in nature. His paperweights are displayed in many museums including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, The Metropolitan Museum of Arts, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, just to name a few. His poetry is thought invoking and gives insight into his artistic designs. Vicki and I have had the honor of meeting him and greatly look forward to seeing him on Friday.

Be sure to visit his website at www.paulstankard.com

We hope to see all of you there. Please bring a friend~ they will be glad you did!

We want to thank all of our hard workers who generously gave their time at the Harvest Fair. They did well selling our items; our hats, bags, and books are becoming quite popular! We will have some items on hand at the meeting if you missed out! Remember...Christmas is coming!

WHS OFFICERS 2007

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Vice Pres.	Barbara Capelli
Secretary	Jo Dominy
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Hon. Trustee	Lucy Schulz

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

Please remember to find time for writing and compiling your pictures for the Wenonah Album! See you on Friday!

UPCOMING

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 9th: South Jersey Ghost Research ~they're ba-ack!

DECEMBER 14th: Christmas Party!

WENONAH 101 YEARS AGO
OCTOBER 1906

Mrs. W.G. Peddle is visiting in Bridgeton.

Mr. Edward Knight was in town last night.

There is much complaint about the night telephone service here.

The Academy football team went to Glen Mills today to play a game.

For Sale – An Oldsmobile, very cheap. Apply to Dr. Lean. Reason for selling, does not have time to use it.

Mrs. Eisenburg of Baltimore, who has been visiting at the home of her sister Mrs. Wm. VanMeter, returned home today.

The third rail club have moved their headquarters to the second story back room in Noblit's Hall. Donations of coal would be very acceptable.

The Glassboro, Pitman and Clayton Gas Co awarded the contract Wednesday evening for the extension of their gas mains to Mantua and Wenonah. Work on the operation will be started in about 60 days.

The Academy 2nd team overwhelmed the Pitman team yesterday by the score of 21 to 0 in 15 and 10 minute halves. Fox and Housel did the best work for the Academy while Lefebvre of the Pitman first team did the best work for Pitman.

FOR SALE – 2 organs, also 2 organ boxes, just the thing for sweet potatoes. Geo. W. Locke.

COUNTY VITAL TO BEGINNING OF RAILROADS

South Jersey had role in development

By GLENN KOPPELMAN, Staff Writer, *Gloucester County Times* 5/28/95

(First in a three-part series.)

It's an old question that was first raised by a group of ambitious businessmen.

"Why would people want to drive from Gloucester County to Philadelphia if they could ride the rails?" they asked themselves. After all, they reasoned, train travel is quicker and safer, plus there's the added benefit of avoiding all those traffic jams.

So they set about building a bridge linking the area's existing passenger rail lines to provide a solid steel ribbon leading from Center City to Woodbury, Glassboro, Newfield and beyond, and ran out of money.

That was some 80 years ago. In the years since, turnpikes and superhighways have risen to provide what passenger rail promised. But as choked roads have become more commonplace, the plan attempted by those entrepreneurs back in the days of the Model T has received new attention.

"What goes around, comes around," says Don Wentzel. "Eventually, we're going to have to go back to some light rail form of transportation once again."

Wentzel, railroad editor for South Jersey Magazine in Millville, has written much about the dreams of would-be South Jersey railroad barons and their efforts at empire building. In the process, he has traced the area's rail history that began with a number of small lines and evolved into a network connecting Camden to Cape May.

Although the elusive passenger route to Philadelphia remained only a dream in those days, electric trains eventually would transport county residents to virtually any other commercial center on the Jersey side of the river. The trains were touted as quicker, more efficient and safe.

"I'm not aware of any serious accidents once electrification was in place," Wentzel says. "A few people stepped on the third rail, a few cars got in front of the train, but those were the exceptions."

According to Wentzel, Gloucester County's passenger rail history starts around 1836 with the chartering of the Camden and Woodbury Railroad. The first steam-powered trains arrived on the line two years later, but not long afterward were replaced by horse-drawn trains in an apparent cost-cutting move.

In 1850, the Camden and Woodbury Railroad's tracks were torn up — the state's first railroad abandonment. It was an ignominious start to the county's passenger rail legacy.

But other lines soon moved in to fill the void. In its heyday, which Wentzel places from the turn of the century until just after World War I, the area's passenger rail system connected most of the major towns in South Jersey, and the steel links stubbornly held together for several years after the train was dethroned by the automobile as the chief source of local travel.

"Until '31, you could get on an electric train and go to Atlantic City from Glassboro, Wenonah or Woodbury," Wentzel says.

Before it disappeared, passenger rail left its mark on Gloucester County, bringing about the early 1900s version of a development boom. Wentzel notes that the site of Glassboro Normal School, now Rowan College of New Jersey, was chosen in part because the town was a rail junction. Passenger lines also contributed to the birth of communities such as Woodbury Heights and Newfield, and sprouting neighborhoods like Glassboro's Chestnut Ridge Estates relied heavily on their proximity to passenger rail as a major selling point.

Meanwhile, the rumble of railway cars was echoing loudly through Woodbury as train tracks combined with roads to reshape the county seat into a transit core. "You have an awful lot of transportation in Woodbury in the early 1900s," Wentzel says. "It was definitely quite a transportation hub ... an early transportation center. All this was largely due to the efforts of local businessmen who started banding together around the mid-1800s to see that the iron horses that were spreading the Industrial Age made it to their neck of the woods. Across South Jersey, small railroad companies started popping up, though these tiny enterprises hardly looked like the makings of another Union & Pacific.

Take, for example, the Swedesboro Railroad Company. Incorporated in 1866, the firm boasted 11-9 miles of track running from Swedesboro to Woodbury. Under its equipment inventory, however it listed a big zero — no engines, no cars, nothing. The company simply leased its rail line to another railroad company.

The Swedesboro Railroad Company was typical of the area, says Wentzel. Businessmen from a town chipped in to build a rail line to that town, connected it with an operating railroad's already existing lines, then either leased it to the railroad or sold it outright. The procedure was more cost-effective than having the railroad build the lines itself and the businessmen were assured of an outlet for their goods and a new source of customers.

"In some cases here in South Jersey, they turned (the track) over the day the line was completely built. In some cases they held on to them for a few years," Wentzel says.

In the case of one railroad, Wentzel notes, the impetus was provided by one family, the Woods, who operated everything from an iron works to a cotton mill and bleachery in Millville. In 1860 when the family completed the Millville & Glassboro Railroad, it resulted in one of the earliest examples of a connector flight: Families traveling from Camden to Millville rode the train to Woodbury, hopped aboard the stagecoach to Glassboro and switched to a train again for the rest of the trip.

The following year, the West Jersey Railroad linked its Camden and Woodbury tracks to the Millville & Glassboro line completing a vital leg in a network that would eventually extend to Cape May.

UPDATE ON MUSEUM CATALOGUING PROJECT BY CHAIRPERSON JULIE REAM

Since the original survey of the WHS Museum holdings and storage needs in December 2005, I have worked on and off with several volunteers to catalog and store the collections of the Wenonah Historical Society. We are currently up to about 200 objects at last count. This number does not include the 114 architectural maps and drawings that Jack Sheppard took flattened and housed in the flat files storage facility.

We have completed work on the most cumbersome objects (ex: uniforms, 3-D glass and metal objects) that require more complicated storage plans and catalog descriptions. We have more recently begun to tackle the vast number of photographs, which will go faster (each item is similar to the last entry and storage is simply a choice based on size of folder). While in numbers we are probably just over halfway through, we have completed the most time-consuming items and with

more regular volunteers we'll be able to finish cataloguing the current holdings within the next several months.

In addition to myself and of course support by Jack Sheppard, volunteers over the past (almost two) years have included: Jo Dominy and Bud Rose, Brenda Birkland, Anne Zuber, Sue McNally and Melissa Eckstein.

All of the volunteers have been very adept, but few have been able to work often enough to become proficient. Since my schedule is limited (by my full time job and kids' activities), I would say the greatest need remains to find a few volunteers who can reliably offer a weekly presence to the project.

In writing this, I looked back over the report I made upon completion of the initial survey. Several of the recommendations I made have been followed and it reminded me how much progress has been made. There is one step that remains, and it is a crucial one before we can begin to ask Wenonah residents to donate items to our museum:

- ❖ The Executive Board needs to write a concise mission statement that allows for objective evaluation of present holdings and future acquisitions. We must have guidance and decisions about what to keep before spending time/money for accession and storage.

A committee would ideally be formed to write the mission statement and be responsible to consider items offered for donation to determine their appropriateness for the collection. We do not have the space or resources to store objects that bear no direct link with Wenonah's history and there should be a plan in place to accept or decline donations on that basis. Most of the items so far have been Military Academy, but we already have a sizeable group of items separated out that require a decision by the Society officers as to whether or not they should be catalogued, since they do not apparently meet this criteria.

I share your concern for the condition of the train station and its ability to provide a stable environment for the museum holdings. I would be happy to offer any support on that topic as repairs proceed. I continue to enjoy working on this project and plan to stick with it, ever hopeful that more people will see the value in it and decide to join the cause!

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 8 November 2007

MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT
LOU MCCALL

Dear Members;

The Return of South Jersey Ghost Research to the Community Center on November 9th!

Well after an outstanding presentation by Paul Stankard last month that included insight to his book "No Green Berries or Leaves, The Creative Journey of an Artist in Glass" (copies still available- please see any officer), we now look forward to next Friday's 7:30 pm meeting in the Community Center where we again welcome Dave Juliano, Director of South Jersey Ghost Research and his team for what is always a very interesting and unique presentation.

Dave and his team's main goal is to assist anyone who is in fear of spirit activity in their everyday surroundings. Dave is also director of "The Shadowlands: Ghost and Hauntings" and author of "Positive Energy for Haunted Homes, Ghost Research 101: Investigating Haunted Homes" and "Armor of God" and "Ghost Hunting 101."

Dave has been researching paranormal activities for over 20 years and has consulted on thousands of cases. He lived in a haunted house himself for over 29 years and his current residence also keeps him practicing. Dave majored in History and World religions in College and is a police academy graduate.

The appearance by SJGR of the 9th will include video and audio presentations, photos and electronic voice recordings ("EVPs") from actual cases, photo displays, equipment displays, demos and the often-surprising Q&A session with the audience. Please bring your questions and stories.

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If you have a chance, please also check out SJGR's website at: www.southjerseyghostresearch.org, click on "cases" and the scroll down to "Wenonah Train Station" to see the picture results of their last investigation of the Community Center on December 13, 2002.

Christmas and the Wenonah Family Album

Folks please keep in mind our responsibility to help preserve Wenonah memories when you are up in the attic looking for holiday decorations and you come across those treasured pictures from days gone by in Wenonah. Please remember to compile your family

pictures and little quips to help us forever memorialize those Wenonah Memories and submit them to Barb Capelli or myself. Thanks!

Notice!! Executive Meeting of officers, trustees and anyone interested 6.00 pm prior to general meeting at Community Center.

Please remember to find time for writing and compiling your pictures for the Wenonah Album! See you on Friday!

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REMINISCENCES OF WENONAH
HISTORY BY J.C. SHEPPARD SR

Andrew W. Carey was one of a handful of men instrumental in the founding of Wenonah.

Mr. Carey served on the original group of Commissioners when Wenonah was first organized commencing in 1883 and was Mayor of Wenonah during the years 1897 and 1898. He died in 1905.

Andy's son James W. Carey served on Borough Council from 1900 through 1908. James was the father of Josiah Allen Carey who was our Borough Clerk when I joined Borough Council in 1962. He conducted the Clerks activities from his home.

The Carey homestead was the handsome dwelling on the S.W. corner of South Clinton and Cherry Streets opposite the Wenonah Park.

COUNTY VITAL TO BEGINNING OF RAILROADS

South Jersey had role in development

By GLENN KOPPELMAN, Staff Writer, *Gloucester County Times* 5/28/95

(Second in a three-part series.)

Over the years, the West Jersey Railroad bought and incorporated several smaller area rail lines. It consolidated the Swedesboro Railroad in the 1880s, and soon added the Salem Railroad, the Salem Branch Railroad Company, the Woodstown and Swedesboro Railroad Company, the West Jersey Terminal Railroad Company and the Maurice River Rail Road Company. When it acquired the Delaware River Railroad in 1900, the West Jersey & Seashore Railroad, as it was then known, had a virtual maze of tracks reaching into all corners of Gloucester County.

But finding a way across the Delaware to securely link the county with Philadelphia remained an elusive goal. The plan to build a passenger rail bridge to South Philadelphia ran out of cash between 1910 and 1920. Wentzel notes that a railroad bridge was already in place — in the Delair section of Pennsauken — but he points out that reaching the bridge would add another 30 minutes to the average train trip and thus remove one of the big selling points of passenger rail.

Meanwhile, another project to benefit passenger rail was hitting snags. Around 1905, West Jersey & Seashore embarked on a project to build a cutoff between Westville and Haddon Township to link two lines and ease freight traffic on the system. The link was about 70 percent complete when tight finances caused work to be halted, and the cutoff was never finished.

Then, in 1926, the area's passenger train service was dealt a more serious blow. "When the Ben Franklin Bridge was built, that was the death knell," says Wentzel.

From there, it was mostly downhill. The West Jersey & Seashore Railroad became the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines in 1933, but by then passenger service was already on the decline. Two years earlier, the electric line from Newfield to Atlantic City was torn out, limiting passenger service to only as far as Millville. The South Jersey passenger rail network was starting to shrink.

An incident in 1949 effectively put an end to the rest of the network. In Vineland, a fuel oil truck was hit by a passenger train of wooden cars carrying school children from Newfield. There were no fatalities, but, as Wentzel puts it, the state said that's

it," and cracked down on the use of wooden passenger cars. Lacking enough metal cars, Pennsylvania-Reading couldn't keep the service alive.

But Wentzel still sees reason for hope in the future. He notes that there seems to be renewed interest in freight rail as a cheaper way to move products, and adds that there appears to be a similar spark in reviving passenger service. Wentzel says he personally would like to see the PATCO High-Speed Line eventually expand south to Glassboro. "We seem to be turning around

Many great ideas don't work at first. Such was the case with the first railroad in Gloucester County.

Incorporated in 1836, the Camden and Woodbury Railroad was the first to be built south of Camden, but its rails were torn up just 14 years later.

The railroad was a victim of too much vision, doomed to failure because it was ahead of its time, says Paul Schopp, a historical consultant who specializes in rail history.

The idea was sound, Schopp says. In a time of terrible road conditions, create a reliable means of travel to link two budding towns. In a time when stagecoaches and wagons were the chief modes of transit, create a network suitable for passenger as well as freight travel.

This was the thinking when a group of businessmen, merchants, builders and attorneys gathered in the Woodbury courthouse in January 1836 with the goal of establishing the railroad.

The railroad would serve many purposes, the planners reasoned. It was a means of transporting citizens from Camden to the county seat of Woodbury where court business was conducted.

It would also provide a way to get goods from the farms and markets of Swedesboro and other rural locations to Camden where they could be sold or shipped across the river via ferry to Philadelphia for sale.

The Camden and Woodbury line became official on March 1, 1836 after it was incorporated by an act of the state Legislature, according to court papers.

After two years of surveys, purchasing and track construction, the railroad was ready for service. Private stockholders picked up the total cost of \$87,301.28.

The line's maiden journey was conducted Saturday, Jan. 20, 1838. The steam locomotive "Fire Fly," pulling a 40-foot passenger car filled with dignitaries covered the nine miles of track between Camden and Woodbury in about 20 minutes with a short stop in Westville. Fifteen-year-old Camden resident Isaac Mickle was on hand as the Fire Fly rumbled back after its trip that day.

"We gave her (the locomotive) nine cheers when she returned." wrote Mickle, who eventually became a lawyer and later chronicled Gloucester County history in "Reminiscences of Old Gloucester." published in 1845.

Initial interest in the fledgling line was great.

To many, railroads were "a new age, a new way to communicate with the outside world," Schopp said from his home in Riverton.

The Industrial Revolution arrived pulled by locomotives," he says.

Some were frightened by the new experience.

"People thought riding the train caused epilepsy. Others thought it was demonic to travel at those speeds of 10 to 12 mph. It was the fear of the unknown." says Schopp, who is an active member of the West Jersey Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

Others may have been too fearless. Several pedestrians were killed during the first years of the Camden and Woodbury line, according to published reports.

The speed a train could travel was subsequently reduced to the pace of a walker. But that wasn't enough. Railroads were ordered to have a man walk 50 to 100 yards ahead of the train waving a flag by daylight. and a lantern by night to warn unsuspecting pedestrians.

Nonetheless, the impact of this new mode of travel was great.

WENONAH MUSEUM CREATION INFORMATION
BY JACK SHEPPARD

As I have pointed out many times recently the creation of the WHS museum is slow, but reasonably steady. The volunteers who have assisted since the effort started have been great. Unfortunately we have not had enough of them.

But forgetting that for the moment, I want to take this opportunity to tell the membership about where this project appears to be heading.

It is doubtful we can have a museum such as is usually envisioned, spaces with shelves, showcases, filing cabinets accessible by the members and/or the general public, open for any and all contributions.

This cannot happen for several reasons.

First and foremost, we do not have the necessary amount or right kind of space for the purpose. The three small rooms on the second floor of the former train station are accessible by only one means, a narrow, steep and winding stairway. In the event of fire an exodus from the upstairs would be difficult and maybe even impossible depending on the location of the conflagration.

Secondly, in order to preserve the artifacts for the long-term, especially the military uniforms and other items of clothing it is necessary to store them in special containers and packing materials making access difficult and requiring similar efforts to place them back in storage each time they are exposed.

For these reasons I have proposed to the Executive Board that the best practical approach is create a "virtual museum" in the following manner.

All historic materials will be photographed, photos and paper materials scanned, and stored electronically on digital hard-drives and other suitable storage media before being packed away in conventional storage facilities. Utilizing a computer program named "Microsoft Power Point" the digital images can be scripted into presentations suitable for different audiences. One program might be just about the Military Academy, another on historical buildings, etc. I have been advised that each program can be saved in a unique separate file and then shown repeatedly if it is desired to do so.

The equipment components necessary for a virtual museum are relatively few, a laptop computer with a large-capacity hard drive for photograph storage and a digital projector. Although not cheap, probably ner \$2,500.00, this is still a lot less costly than glass-enclosed display cabinets and quite likely a lot more practical.

If any member is conversant with Microsoft Power Point I would like to talk to him or her.