

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Friday, February 14, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 1, January 2014

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Charles Horan*

Our January 2014 meeting was an enjoyable and successful gathering. Fellow members recounted some memories of days gone by in Wenonah as well as "back stories" relating to the circumstances that brought them to this beautiful borough. We will continue with this format for the February and March meetings. Any contribution of a reasonable length to these topics is most welcome.

A reminder: 2014 WHS Annual Dues are due (\$15.00) "A Bargain at Twice the Price." Please bring a check to the February meeting.

See you there.

2014 WHS OFFICERS

President	Charles Horan
Vice President	Paul Lader
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held on the
second Friday of each month
(except June, July and August)
at the Train Station Community
Center

Historic House Plaques



Is your Wenonah home at least 90 years old?

If so and you would like a deed search and a plaque for the exterior of your home, please contact Frank Eggert at baldeagle0910@yahoo.com or (856) 468-6465. Cost is \$75.



If you would like to receive an electronic version of the newsletter instead of a copy delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, please let us know at b.price111@comcast.net.

The newsletter will arrive sooner, reduce our printing and postage costs, and if there is something in color, you will be able to see the colors.

The Wide Awake Campaign in Gloucester County

by Charlesanna Fallstick

Originally published in the *Bulletin of the Gloucester County Historical Society*, September 2004

Every presidential election has its own campaign slogans and origins. Some campaigns have more effect on the history of the United States than others. The Wide Awake Campaign of 1860 was such a campaign.

At this time, the country was facing a difficult time with the Civil War looming on the horizon. The Wide Awake clubs were formed in 1859 by a group of young, energetic men from Hartford, CT. They were upset with the political situation and reactions of the general government under President James Buchanan and the Democratic Party. The group adopted the slogan, "Union, Liberty, Honor."

News of the Wide Awakes quickly spread among the northern states. In Gloucester County, voters in several communities such as the townships of Deptford, Greenwich, Clayton, Glassboro and Harrison and the city of Woodbury were interested in the organization's ideas. Young male leaders would first form a committee to set up an organizational meeting. In June 1860, they posted notices in local newspapers announcing the meeting date and place. The various clubs selected the name of Lincoln-Hamlin Clubs with the exception of Deptford Township [this would include Wenonah at the time] which remained as the Wide Awake Club. To keep the attention of voters, meetings of the clubs were held bi-weekly with prominent men speaking out in support of the Opposition Party's candidates, Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin. These meetings were well-attended and local newspapers carried both criticism and supportive comments.

In the summer of 1860, these clubs selected various delegates to attend conventions held in Woodbury, Camden and Trenton. The selected slate of candidates were John T. Nixon of Cumberland County for the First Congressional District, and the

following men from Gloucester County: John Pierson for Senator, John Starr and Joseph H. Duffield for State Assembly, Joseph Carter for Sheriff and William Bowers, Richard F. Springer and William H. Hannold for Coroners.

As the Fall of 1860 approached, the campaigning became stronger with pig roasts, torchlight processions in various towns, distribution of hand bills and for the last demonstration of the campaign, the Grand Wide Awake Procession.

The banner of Woodbury's weekly newspaper, *The Constitution*, carried the names of Lincoln and Hamlin from May until Election Day, November 6, 1860. Election results were printed in the paper on November 13. In its support of the Opposition Party, the newspaper did not ignore the conventions and platforms of the Conventional Union (Whig) Party and the split Democratic Party. However due to its endorsement of the Opposition Party, the paper devoted much of its limited space to that party.

When the election was over and votes were counted in Gloucester County, the majority of voters had not supported Lincoln in his quest for the presidency. However the Wide Awake clubs continued and eventually became allied with the Republican Party.

Political campaigning has changed drastically since 1860. During that year, the *Woodbury Constitution* reported campaign news for a period of six months. Today, campaigning lasts much longer. Yet, voter turnout in 1860 was approximately 80%.

The Gloucester County Historical Library has the complete run of the *Woodbury Constitution* and many other local newspapers. Researchers are always welcome to visit and learn more about our local history!

WENONAH
FEBRUARY 1908

- It is said here that Dr. Stout was a busy man as the result of the pie eat at the Grange last night. That pie eat was a great affair with pies of all kinds and sizes. Some people will not want any more pie until next winter.
- Mr. Urian had four loads of goods brought down from Philadelphia to his home on West Jersey Avenue. The road was very bad and one of the teams got stuck on Farr's Hill [East Mantua Ave.] and had to remain there all night.
- Farmers are unloading a carload of fertilizer here.
- There is considerable talk of taking the old hedge out of the park. This would be a great improvement.
- Farmer Stevenson is suffering from a sore ankle. He got mixed up with his horse and both fell on the ice. Mr. Stevenson underneath and got the worst of it. [Isaac Stevenson lived on the farm which is now being developed as the Woods of Wenonah. He cut ice at Wenonah and Pelkington Lakes.]
- The dance and reception at the Wenonah Military Academy last evening was largely attended and everybody reports a happy time.
- The water pipes at the depot froze and broke yesterday and all the oil stoves available were secured to heat the place.
- Milk for sale 6 cents a quart delivered to your door-Geo. Kean Mantua.
- There was another pleasant quilting party at the home of Mrs. Custer, given by the ladies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the occasion being another quilt pieced together by Mrs. Margaret Ramsey who is in her ninetieth year, and they have sold it already for \$3.

- A bell phone has been placed in the ticket office.
- FOR RENT 6 room house, garden attached, near Wenonah, 5 \$ per month apply to Howard Hendrickson, Wenonah.
- The Five Hundred meet at the home of Mrs. James Carey Saturday evening.
- The fireman fed close to four hundred people Tuesday night. They desire to thank all who kindly assisted. If you have lost any dishes call at the home of Chief Andrew Savage.
- Houses are still in a great demand here. They are rented again as soon as vacated and there is hardly a day goes by but there are new parties in town looking for houses.
- Among those who have measles are Cornelia Truncer, Miss Olive Brown and Edith Hurff.

Woodbury Daily Times February 1908

From the files of Milton H. Webb

Howe's Gloucester & Salem Directory

1890-91

WENONA

Is a handsome residence village of 400 inhabitants, located in Deptford Township, on the West Jersey R. R., 2½ miles south of Woodbury, the county seat and location of nearest bank. The place is 11 miles from Philadelphia, and offers most excellent advantages for summer residences. One Presbyterian church is sustained. Produce is the principal shipment. Daily stage to Mantua, fare, 10 cents; Mullica Hill, fare, 35 cents, and Harrisonville, fare, 50 cents. J. W. English, postmaster.

CATTELL WILLIAM C., real estate, insurance and surveyor

Chew Sylvester H., livery stable and coal

ENGLISH JESSE W., postmaster and general store

Fisler Samuel D., general store

Gilmour & Son, dentists

MERRITT JOSEPH W., druggist, Broad cor Cooper, Woodbury, N. J.

Richmond Eldoras, washing machines

Savage Thomas J., cigars

Sickler William B., dentist

STEVENSON I. C. & Co., canned goods

Stout Harry A., physician

Vogt William, florist

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

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Friday, March 14, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 2, February 2014

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

As more lovely Winter weather unveils itself to us in episodic fashion, seemingly every six or seven days, we all look forward longingly for relief in the "can't arrive soon enough" season of Spring. Hopefully this Friday, February 14 will be clear and safe for our Valentine's Day soiree.

Many thanks to Debbie Mix for volunteering her time and artistic talents to assist Frank Eggert in the painting and lettering of our Historic House Plaques.

A reminder: please bring your checkbook for annual dues and also your story of how you came to live in the Borough of Wenonah. Presentations, however brief, will be welcome.

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Valentine Cards

Courtesy of Gloucester County Historical Society

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Miscellaneous.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.—This is the anniversary of the patron saint of all young people who are affected with that "immortal mystic feeling," 'yclepted Love. It is as natural for some parties affected in the region of the heart to give utterance to the same on this day, on highly-embossed note paper, as it is for others to make presents on Christmas day. Many a young damsel's happiness or despair will be measured to-day by the number and character of fancy envelopes received, containing the best poetry and finest penmanship of her admirers. Many a loving swain's thoughts will be more on his *inamorate* than on his business duties, waiting, in nervous expectation, for the coveted, highly-scented, gilt-edged message, that proves to him his passion is not a hopeless one.

Many a crusty old bachelor will receive a hint from indignant fair ones, of his selfish, solitary state, in the shape of broad and frequently insulting caricatures. Many a fop, coquette, flirt and old maid will be disagreeably reminded of their weaknesses or misfortunes by the same (too frequently disreputable) means. Anger, merriment, scorn or indifference will be produced according to the nature and disposition of the recipient of those questionable missives, which, we are pleased to record, are fast going out of date, the Comic Valentine.

Philadelphia Inquirer, February 14, 1863



Ice Cutting on Wenonah Lake, circa 1900
Photograph courtesy of Gloucester County Historical Society

Before the advent of refrigeration, this was the time of year when ice houses were filled. Ice cutting was both a time-sensitive and high-pressure endeavor. Sudden increases in temperature or a blizzard could hinder the cutting and ice was necessary to preserve food throughout the year. Ice was retrieved from lakes, ponds or streams in the winter and stored in ice houses or pits for later use. On farms, streams were dammed to flood a meadow in the early part of the winter. Filling ice houses was hard work whether one used a saw, an axe or a mule-drawn wagon.

It would several days of sub-freezing temperatures to form ice thick enough for either skating or storing. Ice was ready to be cut when it was 10 to 18 inches thick. Usually there would be a community ice skating party on the evening before the planned ice cutting.

Some ice houses were for personal use while others were operated at various lakes in Gloucester County. Moore's Lake in Clayton boasted three or four large ice houses. There ice was marked out in blocks by horse-drawn markers then sawed and shoved into the houses.

At Warrington's Pond in Woolwich Township, a long sled with very sharp steel runners was used to cut the ice. The cutter would be run both ways to cut out blocks sized for easy handling. The cut was not made down to water level but just far enough in order for the blocks to be broken off with long-handled bars

made by a local blacksmith. A channel would be cut out in the pond to float the blocks to the bottom of a wooden ramp running up to a platform. Several blocks of ice could be hauled up the ramp by a horse. A heavy iron clamp was placed on the back of the bottom block and a rope, attached to the clamp, was run through pulleys and attached to the horse's swingle-tree. As the ice landed on the platform, it was easily slid into the wagon for its trip home to the ice house.

Besides ice houses, pits were also utilized to store ice. Sawdust was placed in the pit first and then the ice was put in. Some pits were lined with Jersey sandstone.

After the ice house was filled, a big dinner was served as reward to everyone who participated in the work.

With a sufficient supply of sawdust, ice could keep until late August, depending upon summer temperatures. When ice ran out, commercial ice plants such as the Woodbury Ice Plant on Russell Street could provide ice for home ice boxes. Ice at the plant was stored in a walk-in, insulated ice box that was attached to the Plant.

Before the modern convenience of the refrigerator and freezer, people depended upon Mother Nature to provide ice. Much hard work went into cutting and retrieving the ice. Today we are fortunate and take for granted the ease with which we preserve our food.

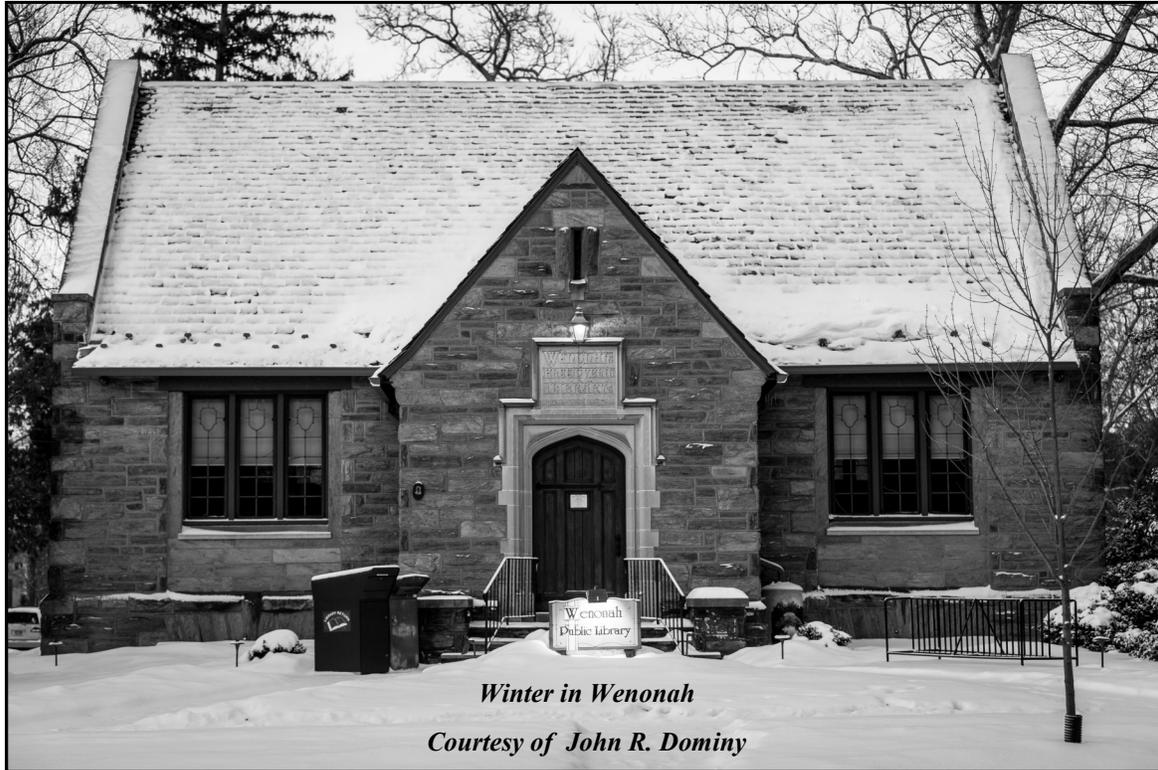
WENONAH
FEBRUARY 1914

- ◇ Wenonah will be well represented with exhibits at the Gloucester Co. Poultry show on Friday and Saturday in the Woodbury Armory.
- ◇ Two letters came to the post office from south Africa for Mrs. Josephine Miller this week. They have been started back, and it will be interesting to know which will reach Kambone first, as Mrs. M. herself left for Kambone about three weeks ago.
- ◇ The moving pictures given in the Y.M.C.A. building on Saturday evening for the benefit of the Missionary Society was a success and a similar entertainment will be given this Saturday evening.
- ◇ Wenonah Military Academy trimmed the Salem lads by the score of 33 to 20 in basketball on Saturday evening.
- ◇ It was reported in last week's items that Munico Orogalle, who left for Italy to visit his mother on December 1st, had not been heard from and it was feared he had met with foul play, but on Monday word was received that he arrived safe and well and would soon be back in the good old U.S.A. again.
- ◇ Miss Winifred Langston gave a Washington birthday party on Saturday afternoon at her home on South Princeton Avenue to a number of her little friends. The after noon was spent in games, music and dancing, after which delicious refreshments were served, the ice cream being served in paper flower pots with a small cherry tree in the center. Each child present was given a soldier hat and a hatchet filled with cherries.
- ◇ Our goose bone farmer weather prognosticator has hit the weather all right so far. He says that we are to have another cold snap later on.
- ◇ Mr. George Hendrickson, carpenter for William Borg, contractor, has purchased an automobile roadster.
- ◇ Mr. and Mrs. Harry Green of Monroe Avenue have returned to their home here after spending the winter with her parents in Philadelphia.
- ◇ Mr. William Murry, one of our policemen, has handed in his resignation to Mr. Fowler Cline, the Mayor.
- ◇ A new dancing class was formed on Friday evening at the Wenonah Military Academy, under the supervision of Miss Marian Hendrickson.
- ◇ The new and large telephone exchange is now ready for occupancy.
- ◇ The new government commandant of the Military Academy is on the grounds.
- ◇ The work on the boulevard between Woodbury Heights and Wenonah is going ahead despite the cold and inclement weather.
- ◇ Mrs. John Holeton's Sanitary Bakery is running exceedingly well now. Mrs. Holeton has quite a route, taking in Woodbury Heights, Sewell, Mantua and Wenonah.
- ◇ The dancing class composed of a number of young married people from our borough met Wednesday in Carey's boat house.
- ◇ The Wenonah Junior Boy Scouts were defeated by the Woodbury team of Boy Scouts by the score of 22 to 14.
- ◇ The Camp Fire Girls will give a ceremonial meeting in the recreation room of the Presbyterian Church on Friday evening at 8 o'clock. This meeting will show you something that is taking hold of great numbers of the girls of our nation.

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

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Friday, March 14, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 3, March 2014



The Blizzard of '88

With all of the snow we've experienced this winter, the famous "Blizzard of '88" comes to mind. March 11, 1888, started out as a balmy spring-like day with a steady rain in Gloucester County. Long before computer-model weather forecasting, unsuspecting residents went to bed on that evening, less than two weeks from the official start of Spring, only to wake up to what was to become a three-day blizzard. Only ten inches of snow fell, but high winds piled drifts up to second-floor windows.

Trains were the mode of transportation at that time. Train as well as trolley tracks were completely covered. Telegraph poles and wires were blown across the tracks in some places. Trains on the Bridgeton branch of the West Jersey Railroad were blockaded for days. At Monroeville on Monday, passengers trapped on the train were kept in the car and provided food by the station agent. By Tuesday, the train had worked its way up as far as Unionville (Aura), where the residents there furnished more supplies for the stranded passengers. By Wednesday, the train's engine was no longer working. The sixteen passengers had eaten all of the provisions and burned all of the coal available. They then began burning the soft coal from the locomotive tenders. This proved to be suffocating and had to be put out. Passengers dug down through snow to remove fence rails in order to use them for firewood. With their fuel and food gone, two passengers trekked six miles to Vineland, sometimes encountering snow drifts ten feet deep. Help was summoned from Camden and late on Wednesday morning, the passengers were finally taken out of the train and brought to Camden. Wednesday afternoon, three engines were linked together to clear the snow from the Bridgeton branch.

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Our March meeting will wrap-up our "How I Came to Live in Wenonah" series of presentations. In my opinion, it has been an informative and entertaining few months. This month will feature a presentation by Larry Smith entitled "The Smiths in Wenonah" which dates back to 1903. Following Larry's dissertation we will be open to additional Wenonah back stories from anyone who has yet to present and feels the desire to share their story with our group.

On the agenda this Friday evening will be the status and future of the WHS web site. We have a good start with some very knowledgeable people involved. I feel that a successful web site will be an important facet of the Wenonah Historical Society going forward. Bring your ideas and opinions.

Please make an effort to come out this Friday at 7:30. Dare I say it? Hopefully that ugly white stuff is finished for the season.

The Salem Railroad was also totally blocked for three days. On the Swedesboro branch, one of Monday's trains became stuck in a snow bank at Harrisonville and another at Rulon's Road above Swedesboro. A number of the passengers were kept at area hotels at company expense. After being detained in the train for a day and night, other passengers walked home. By Friday morning, the tracks had been cleared enough to allow the first train through, but another day or two was needed to totally clear the track.

In his diary, Charles H. Pancoast, Station Agent at Harrisonville Station, writes that he was almost blinded by the fierce snowstorm during his 2-1/2 mile walk to the station on Monday, March 12. On Tuesday, he reported that, "...the train on the Elmer and Salem road got fast with 7 feet of snow about her." The southbound track of the West Jersey Railroad was closed. The only alternative was to run the south bound trains on the north bound track.

Meanwhile, there were other problems. Tuesday, March 13, was Election Day. Very few voters were able to travel to the polls in their respective districts. Some townships and boroughs were not able to hold

elections at all.

Some enterprising residents saw the blizzard as an economic opportunity. A farmer near Florence in Burlington County sold bread and butter for 50 cents per slice to stranded commuters, making a \$50 profit.

Trains were not the only mode of transportation that was affected. The ferry running between Cooper's Point in Camden and Philadelphia was disabled when the shifting winds formed sandbars causing the ferry to become stranded. Horses on the ferry had to be put into cabins to spare them from freezing. Tug boats carried stranded passengers back to shore.

Horse-drawn plows were used to clear the roads. In Westville, a twelve-foot drift prevented trains from passing through. Businesses were shut down. Lack of supplies at glass and iron factories forced workers to remain idle. Up and down the coast from Maine to New Jersey, wires were down and dispatchers were unable to ascertain where trains were halted. Almost all communication between Philadelphia and New York was cut.

Even after 126 years, the Blizzard of '88 has not been forgotten in South Jersey.

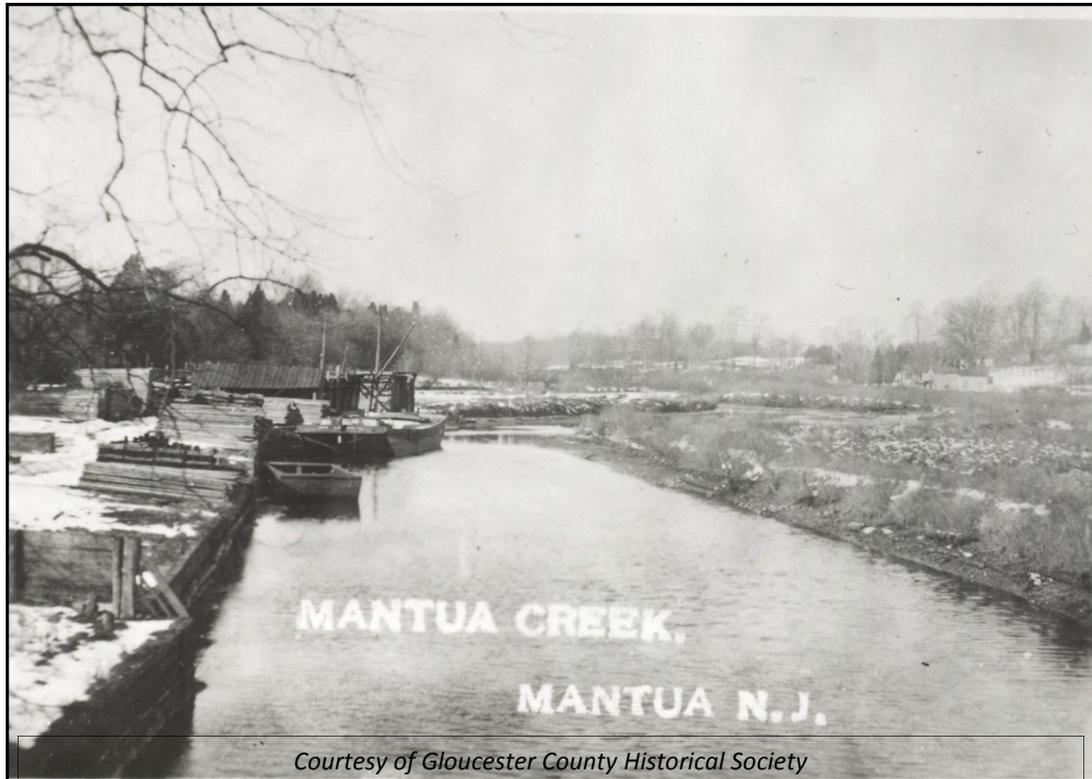
WENONAH
MARCH 1914

- ◇ Mr. George Grosscup has sold his house, formerly occupied by William Spedden, to William Bell, a P.R.R. man, and has purchased the Adamson house on West Jersey Avenue, formerly occupied by Jesse Pinder and after repairs are made will move his family there.
- ◇ Through the kindness of Mr. Edw. Sapp, the Boy Scouts of our borough witnessed the launching of the Oklahoma at the New York Shipyard on Monday morning.
- ◇ Mr. Edward Grosscup, State Treasurer, and whose engagement was recently announced to Miss Florence Steel, his private secretary, spent the week end with his fiancée at Mr. Grosscup's home in our borough.
- ◇ Mr. Aaron Knisell is building an addition to his bungalow on Monroe Avenue and Mr. Harris is building a new milk house at his house on the same street.
- ◇ Dr. Harry Schelcer will break ground for a new house on Jefferson Avenue in the near future, Wm. Borg being the contractor.
- ◇ Our milk business has again exchanged hands. F.H. Harris of Pitman will take charge on Monday.
- ◇ Our new milk man, Mr. Harris, of Pitman, will occupy Mrs. Sara Scott's property at Monroe and Willow St. in the near future.
- ◇ "Safety First" pleas are being used by Wenonah parents to try to persuade Council to make provision for the construction of a safe bathing beach in contracting for repairs to the dam at Wenonah Lake.
- ◇ Engineer William C. Cattell has estimated that will cost \$350 to make improvements to the dam at the water works including the work of sloping of the sides to make a safe place for bathing.
- ◇ Walter A. Wentzell, who opened a news bureau this week, reports business rushing.
- ◇ Borough Marshall Murry, who tendered his resignation some weeks ago, has reconsidered and will continue his duties.
- ◇ Contractor William Borg is purring a new roof on the residence of Jos. Chew.
- ◇ The Green residence, corner Mantua and Marion avenues, is in the hands of John L. Drunier, and will be thoroughly overhauled prior to the occupancy of Dr. Green and his family this summer.
- ◇ Wenonah, like other South Jersey towns, was snowbound on Monday morning, drifts in some places being eight or ten feet high. All trains were an hour or more late.
- ◇ The Equal Rights League here has made substantial cash contributions to the National Woman Suffrage Association and the Women's Journal of New Jersey. A canvass of the county will be made to ascertain the number of suffragists and a report forwarded to the Legislature at Trenton.
- ◇ Captain Hamilton, the new commandant at the Military Academy, is expected to arrive within a few days. He will occupy the residence at the corner of Mantua and Marion Aves., formerly occupied by William Ekey and family.
- ◇ Mr. F.H. Preble and family have moved into their new home which Mr. Preble recently bought from Mr. Harry Heal, who moved to California.
- ◇ John Moore has rented his house on Monroe Avenue, formerly occupied by Captain Miller and wife, to parties from Philadelphia. He will have charge of Bayley's green houses.

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, April 11, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 4, April 2014



Reminiscences of Mantua Creek

In the early days of Gloucester County, the waterways were used for navigation. Boats carried lumber and produce up and down the creeks, out to the Delaware River and into the port of Philadelphia. The South Jersey glass industry relied on boats to deliver glass and return with supplies. Farmers also used the creek to ship their produce to market.

In Thomas R. Gordon's *Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey* (1834), Mantua Creek is described as follows "rises on and forms the line between Deptford and Greenwich townships and flows N.W. by a course of 15 miles to the Delaware River, above Maiden Island. It is navigable for sloops 7 or 8 miles to Carpenter's Landing, above which it gives motion to several mills." At that time, Wenonah was part of Deptford Township and Mantua was part of Greenwich Township. As it does today, the creek formed the border between Mantua and Wenonah.

Gordon described Carpenter's Landing (present-day Mantua) as "the post-town of Greenwich township upon Mantua Creek at the head of sloop navigation...a place of considerable trade of lumber, cord wood &c and contains 1 tavern, 2 stores, 30 dwellings and 1 Methodist church." Carpenter's Landing was named for boat builder, Thomas Carpenter. The south branch of the Mantua Creek was called Chestnut Branch and the crossing over it was known as the Old Ford. The east branch was called Cedar Branch and the crossing called Spark's Ford.

In the *Gloucester County Democrat* of May 31, 1900, the reminiscences of the late Hugh A. Long were published. Mr. Long recalled many of the early boat and sloop builders.

Nathaniel Chew built one vessel near the forks of the creek on Chestnut Branch and named her "Eight

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Jno. Pierson, Esq. of Swedesboro has been awarded the contract for furnishing the lumber and building the bridge over Mantua Creek, on the road from Mantua to Wenonah. The bridge is to be completed about the first of October next. The contract was for \$1,850

Woodbury Constitution, Aug. 16, 1871

Brothers” in honor of his eight sons. Thomas Sparks built a 45 to 50 ton sloop on Spark’s Ford on Cedar Branch. The ground where she was built was much higher than the water in the creek and when trying to launch her, she became stuck in mud and it took several tides before she could float.

Frances A. Campbell built a vessel on the north side of the creek close to a small bridge. In order to get her into the water, a canal had to be dug behind her.

Between 1820 and 1825, Isaac Durmot, a sawyer at Ellis Mill on the stream about two miles south of Richwood, built a sloop, the “Woodranger,” to carry 20 to 25 cords of wood and when loaded would draw four feet of water. After she was built, Durmot encountered difficulty in moving her. He paid James Jessup \$350 to convey her to the Mantua Creek. Mr.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan



GREETINGS TO ALL!

Spring has sprung and the winter of our discontent appears to be over. Many thanks to all who contributed over the past three months to our home grown "How I Came to Live in Wenonah" series. This month's program continues with the "home grown" theme in that our very talented fellow member Karen Heller will be the presenter. Her topic will be: Life and Death at the Whitall House--midwifery and yellow fever.

Karen is very involved with the Whitall House at Red Bank Battlefield where she is a docent and conducts tours of the house and battlefield. They have an excellent web site at: <http://www.whitall.org>. Please make an effort to attend this Friday evening for some interesting local history, camaraderie and light refreshments. Our season finale will be our annual picnic on May 9th at 5 PM. There will be a sign-up sheet for appetizers/ sides and desserts.

Jessup used four wagons two abreast with teams of up to sixty horses. She was hauled as far as the Em-len School in Barnsboro when an axle broke. The axle was repaired and the journey continued. After three or four days for a trip of seven miles, the sloop arrived at Mantua where she was calked, finished and put in the water.

At the foot of present-day Turner Street in Mantua, there was a quarter-mile wharf where scows and sloops were set in the water. These vessels carried cordwood and tanned hides down to the Delaware River.

In its heyday, Mantua was a trade and shipping destination. With the advent of automobiles and improved roads, the era of commerce on the Mantua Creek ended.

WENONAH

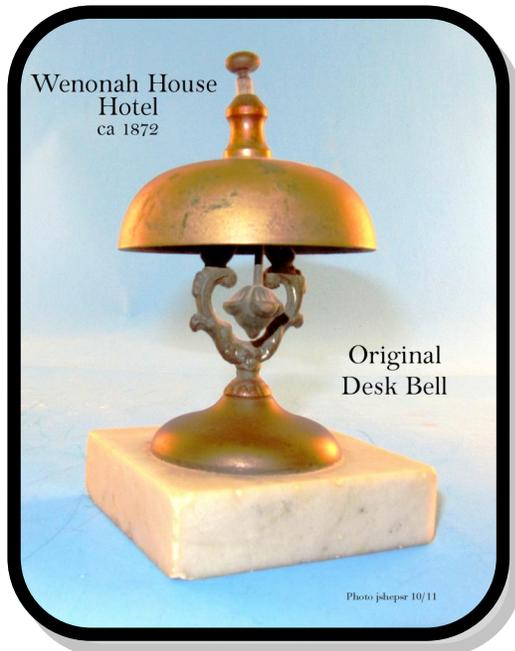
APRIL 1914

- ◇ George Randall, former resident of our borough, moved from Philadelphia on Thursday to Harry C. Vierick's house, corner of Jefferson Avenue and Cherry Street.
- ◇ Cadet LeRoy Hodges, from Woodbury, has received his appointment to West Point.
- ◇ The cellar door of George Dilks' was forced open and the rooms entered by a seemingly hungry individual, who left the house with all the edibles in the cellar.
- ◇ The work on the boulevard is progressing in a satisfactory manner.
- ◇ The Wenonah Country Club is having the tennis courts entirely renovated.
- ◇ Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Ogden have moved from Mt. Ephraim to Mrs. Ogden's home on Monroe Avenue.
- ◇ The dance given by the Tall Cedars of Lebanon in the W.M.A. gymnasium on Saturday evening was attended by a large number of Masons from far and near. The exhibition drill given by the Rangers was fine. An orchestra of sixteen pieces furnished the music.
- ◇ Mr. Robert Reeban has opened a first-class harness and shoe maker shop in Mrs. D.W. Brown's double house on Mantua Avenue.
- ◇ The Wenonah Improvement Association held a special meeting on Wednesday evening and settled on Saturday, April 25, as Wenonah's cleaning up day.
- ◇
- ◇ Harry S. Downs has opened a barber shop in the house formerly occupied by Joseph Souder.
- ◇ Chalkley Lyons, our former milkman, has again started up a route.
- ◇ Mr. John Nelson is very low at this writing with pneumonia and is not expected to recover. He and his wife expected to move into their new home the first of the month.
- ◇ Mrs. Edward Knight entertained at an At Home on Tuesday afternoon.
- ◇ Miss Cecelia Sargent who has been home from Bryn Mawr College for the holidays, and her mother Mrs. H.A. Sargent, attended the dinner of the Margareta M. Haig Teacher Training Class at Philadelphia on Monday. Miss Sargent made the address of the evening.
- ◇ Nathan Straddock, who lives just outside of Wenonah, was found guilty by Justice Mankin of North Woodbury last week of not giving proper care and feed to his stock. The charges were preferred by agents of the S.P.C.A. and the evidence showed that even when Shaddock had feed for his animals, he did not feed them enough. The justice imposed a fine of \$10 and costs.
- ◇ Invitations have been issued for the wedding of Miss Rena Ogden and Mr. Frank Burdsall both of our borough.
- ◇ The minstrel show to be given on Saturday evening next, May 2, by the Senior Group of the Y.M.C.A. promises to be one of the best ever given here.

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

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



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

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

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

paraphernalia, and sports and educational activity photographs.

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

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

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

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

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

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Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
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Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month
(except June, July and August)
at the Train Station Community Center

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

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

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

easy retrieval.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jack Sheppard

WENONAH

MAY 1914

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

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M.
Friday, September 12, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 6, September 2014



Sue & Larry Smith's home, 110 S. Clinton Avenue

September Meet and Greet

Our September "Meet and Greet" is scheduled for Friday, September 12th starting at 6:00 PM. We will be returning to Sue & Larry Smith's home at 110 S. Clinton Ave. for this annual event. We ask that attendees bring appetizers and desserts, based on the first letter of your last name:

*A though M – please bring an appetizer
N though Z – please bring a dessert.
Beverages will be provided.*

This get-together would be an excellent opportunity to introduce our friends and neighbors to the Wenonah Historical Society. Please invite (better yet, bring) at least one prospective member to the Smith's on September 12th.



A group site for the Wenonah Historical Society has been created on Facebook. If you are Facebook-inclined, please stop by the site and join at

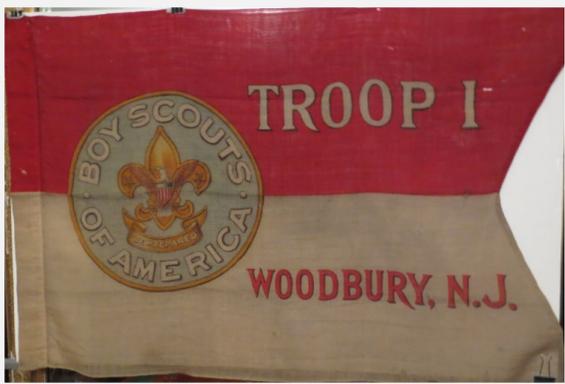
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/708673412545429/>

Ask your friends to do the same. The Facebook group will be a companion site to a website that is being developed to make the contents of the Society's museum available to all, as well as presentations such as the one Jack Sheppard, Sr. and Karen Heller have been making to Wenonah Elementary School on the origin of Wenonah. We'll keep you posted on the progress of the website via the WHS Newsletter.

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The Gloucester County Historical Society

Presents

Be Prepared!

Scouts of Yesteryear

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have been a tradition in America for over a century.

Visit this remarkable exhibit of scouting artifacts from over the decades. Numerous uniforms, merit badges, equipment, manuals, flags, and accessories from the 1920's forward are on display.

Special evening tours for Scout troops and dens may also be arranged by calling (856) 848-8531.

Now through December 29, 2014

Wenonah Borough Council a Century Ago

Excerpts from Wenonah Council Minutes

July 7, 1910—Construction application requested by Rector G. Livingston Bishop for the building of the All Saints Episcopal Church.

May 4, 1911—Application to Council by Mr. Albert Fischer of Wenonah for a Pool and Billiard license for one pool table at his barber shop on West Jersey Avenue. Permission granted.

July 5, 1912—Resolution: Permission granted to the Wenonah Mutual Improvement Association to erect either two or four stone or brick columns at the North West corner of the park. And that a tablet suitably inscribed with the names of the donors of said Park land be placed on one of the columns.

April 3, 1913—Motion that the Gas Lamp Lighter be granted the privilege of riding his bicycle on the sidewalk when on duty. (According to Mrs. Shuman, the Lamp Lighter was usually an "older" local boy. He would ride his bike carrying a long stick with a match on the end. Had to make the same trip again each morning to turn them off.)

April 3, 1913—Motion that the authorities of the Military Academy be granted the privilege of using the Park as a drill ground.

June 4, 1914—Report of the result of a special election held May 26, 1914 to determine if our Library should become a "Free Public Library." Total votes cast 80. In favor 73, against 4, 3 ballots rejected.

From *Information about Wenonah County of Gloucester State of New Jersey from the Minute Books of the Wenonah Borough Commission and the Wenonah Borough Council from 1893 through 1990 compiled by Jack C. Sheppard, Sr., August 1991.*

WENONAH

September 1914

Mrs. John Allen, who recently purchased the Wenonah Ice Cream Parlor, has sold out and will move back to Millville.

The YMCA will give moving pictures hereafter in the YMCA hall every Saturday evening.

A number of our citizens are attending the Chautauqua in Woodbury.

In addition to the YMCA hall being freshly painted and renovated, a large exit door has been cut on the south side both for safety and convenience. This will prove helpful for the people who have to crowd their way out of the other door. This exit will be of great benefit. The ante room on the north side has been filled up by the picture machine with asbestos encasements, making an absolutely fireproof compartment.

Mrs. Mary Mehorter opened her kindergarten on Monday last.

Our tax rate this year is one cent higher than last year—\$2.02.

Mr. James Baylies, one of our grocery men, is erecting two houses on S. Monroe Avenue, which will greatly improve that part of the Avenue. John L. Drummer is the contractor.

Mrs. Mary Hendrickson has sold her farm just outside of our borough and will move into the house now occupied by Jay Charles and family.

The Wenonah Military Academy opened on Tuesday with an attendance of eighty-five, the largest since the Academy started.

The citizens of our borough are showing their interest in the library since it has been made a free public institution, as the number of books distributed show an increase of 90 last month. The building is now being renovated.

Dr. Harry Schisser and wife moved into their new home on Jefferson Avenue on Wednesday.

A large number of our citizens attended the Mantua firemen's carnival at Mantua on Saturday evening.

Contractor and builder Wm. Borg has broken ground for a new house for Harry C. Viereck on S. Lincoln Avenue.

The following members of the Wenonah Board of Registry and Elections have been appointed: William P. Hallman, Howard C. Hendrickson, Joseph S. Eldridge, George L. Dilks.

Mr. Thomas Nelson is rapidly completing a beautiful home for Dr. H. A. Stout, on Clinton Ave., which will be occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burdsall, Jr., one of our recent bride and grooms.

There will be close to twenty-five students who will attend Woodbury High School from here this year.

A large white light has been installed on the south side of Mantua Avenue railroad crossing which gives people a clear view either direction on a dark night and also prevents tripping over the rails.

Mr. Harry House, the congenial butcher in Child's store, is taking his vacation.

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, October 10, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 7, October 2014

THE LITTLE HARDWARE STORE AROUND THE CORNER 3 East Mantua Avenue

Lavander Bateman built the store building in 1884. Very little information on him is available other than he conducted 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, Clark 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 commission and various church boards. His sons Herbert and Jim were born in the house. Later Herbert Clark would operate the coal yard business where the borough public works is today. Jim became a semi-professional baseball player

The newly formed People's Rural Telephone Company put their "central" 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 there, Clark refused because they wouldn't provide an operator.

Richard Clark 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. 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 turned into 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 on the second floor. Many a child 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 called the Tall Pines. 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 opened up a similar shop in Swedesboro under the same name.

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After this it became Marge's luncheonette under the ownership of Margery and Bill Fox. This was 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 school-teachers. It was a gathering place for the community, leaving so many fond memories. Sadly Margery died but fortunately Bill Fox's sister Gladys Clark was able to take over the management of the store. Interesting is the fact that Gladys's 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 close. Several attempts were made to reopen but unsuccessfully. Roy Duffield bought the building and did extensive renovations. In 1989 he leased the store part to Mary K Hair Design who conducted an outstanding business there until a few years ago. [Today, Shear Bliss Hair Studio occupies the building.]

The building over the years has been one of the focal points and historic centers of the town. Indeed its 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.

This story was compiled by the late Milton Webb, Jr. of Wenonah.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

I want to begin by thanking, on behalf of the Wenonah Historical Society, those who were instrumental in accomplishing the improvements to the entryway at the Train Station. Councilman Phil Kaeferle, Borough Clerk Karen Sweeney and Public Works Supervisor Ken Trovarelli worked together as a team to expedite the safety upgrade to the entry steps that so many groups utilize week after week. Nice job!!

Our 2014 Meet and Greet on September 12th was a huge success. We estimate attendance in the range of seventy people. Many thanks to our gracious hosts Sue and Larry Smith for sharing their lovely home for this annual WHS event. An enjoyable evening was had by all. Also in attendance were some new residents who we are happy to welcome as members.

But there is more good news. The WHS Facebook page is up and running and the WHS website is at an advanced stage of construction. These are vital accomplishments as the Wenonah Historical Society moves forward. Many thanks to Larry Smith and Bob Thomas for their efforts.

This Friday October 10th at 7:30 we will conduct our first regular meeting of the 2014-15 season followed by an excellent presentation. Nick Frankunas is a retired railroad instructor from a career with Penn Central and Conrail. Nick is a former member of the Washington Township Historical Society and helped restore the old Glassboro RR Station among a multitude of other RR related endeavors.

Nick's presentation is entitled "**Early South Jersey Railroads.**" I had the pleasure of attending his presentation last May. Nick's topic is not aimed specifically for railroad "buffs/enthusiasts" (like Lou McCall) but for those interested in the history of southern New Jersey and the impact this new mode of transport had (and continues to have) on the people and places in our region. There will be a Q & A following the program and some artifacts displayed. Also, light refreshments will be offered.

Hope to see you there.

A PEEK INTO GLOUCESTER COUNTY'S PAST

Thursday, October 16 @ 7:00 pm

Gloucester County Historical Society Library

17 Hunter St., Woodbury, NJ

Light Refreshments

Seating is Limited.

Call (856) 845-4771 for reservations.

Free Admission

WENONAH

October 1914

- ◇ The Wenonah Military Academy has instituted a department of voice culture under direction of Mr. Carlton McHenry, pupil of Herbert Wilbur Greene.
- ◇ While one of the electric express trains was crossing over Mantua avenue recently, the hot box came off the wheel and was hurled through the air for about fifty yards, ripping things up in general.
- ◇ The water committee of Council has decided to install a duplicate emergency pumping plant at the water works.
- ◇ The collector and solicitor have been instructed to proceed with immediate collection of all outstanding debts on sidewalks and curbs.
- ◇ Little Albert Green, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Green of Mantua avenue, had a nasal operation performed at his home on Monday morning.
- ◇ Dr. H.L. Gilmour is improving his home by building a fine portico.
- ◇ The Lyceum Festival will visit our borough again this year on Oct. 29, 30 and 31. There will be three joyous days of entertainment, lectures and concerts, afternoons and evenings—fifteen events for \$1.00.
- ◇ Rev. Mordecai Stokes, who has been sick for several weeks, passed away at his home on Willow street on Thursday evening, aged 93 years. Mr. Stokes was a veteran Methodist preacher and was loved by all who knew him. The funeral was held in the Methodist Church on Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. About forty preachers attended the funeral (which was very large) in a body. Interment was made in the Wenonah Cemetery.
- ◇ Mr. Holt is erecting a shop where the old lumber yard formerly was.
- ◇ After a pleasant vacation, Harry House is back at his position as butcher in Child's store.
- ◇ The barber, Harold Davis, will move from his present house in Mrs. Anna Johnson's house, corner of Monroe and Mantua avenue, on Monday.
- ◇ The band which has been organized hopes to be under way at an early date.
- ◇ The young people of the town are much dismayed to find that the last night of the Chautauqua comes on Halloween. However, all of the guaranteed 300 tickets are sold. Therefore, there will be no more season tickets to be had and late comers will have to pay straight admission at the door.
- ◇ William Green and family have moved to their winter home in Germantown.
- ◇ Nelson Berg has nearly completed a beautiful house for Dr. Harry A. Stout, who will rent it to Frank Burdsall, one of our recent grooms.
- ◇ Robert Comey is erecting a large garage. Mr. Comey will purchase two more automobiles.
- ◇ A public meeting of Equal Rights League of Wenonah (the only Women's Suffrage League in Gloucester County) was held at the home of Mrs. G.W. Betts in Woodbury Friday afternoon. Mrs. Mariam Holmes, County organizer, was the speaker and a general discussion of the women's cause took place.
- ◇ James Baylies is building another house on Cherry street.

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, November 14, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 8, November 2014

Wenonah's First Automobile

by Bob Thomas

What did people do with their spare time in 1900? Imagine, no computers, no internet, no radio, no television. You could read a book or a newspaper, but if you wanted something more interactive, what was available?

Some newspapers offered puzzles in a serial format over a number of editions with prizes for those who were able to solve the puzzles. On May 27, 1900, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* newspaper announced a new contest, the Captain Kidd Hidden Picture Series with some fantastic prizes. Captain Kidd was convicted of piracy and hung in 1701. You had to pore over a drawing and find six hidden objects. One of the objects could possibly have once been in the pirate's chest. The other five that you had identified could be listed in any order.

The contest was announced on the front page with a photograph of the grand prize, a 1900 Locomobile worth \$750. The name of the vehicle was derived from combining the words locomotive and automobile. An acceptable minimum wage at that time was about \$8 per week. If you could somehow manage to put \$1 a week away to buy the car you could expect to be driving in 15 years! Another way to consider the value of the prize was that houses built on the west side of the railroad tracks in Wenonah were supposed to be worth a minimum of \$1,000 and houses on the east side \$2,000. The top 20 contestants would get an expense paid trip to At-



From *Popular Science Monthly*, Vol. 57
December 31, 1899

lantic City.

Mrs. Frances Bossler, a 23-year old Wenonah woman, who at that time had no children, and her 26-year old husband, Frank, put some effort into solving the puzzles. He worked as a telegraph operator at the Pennsylvania Railroad's Wenonah station. Frances was tied with six other people for coming up with the correct solution on all nine installments of the puzzle. All seven were summoned to the *Inquirer's*

office for a drawing to decide the winner. But cell phones not being invented, only five could be located in time to appear for the drawing; the missing two were represented by proxy.

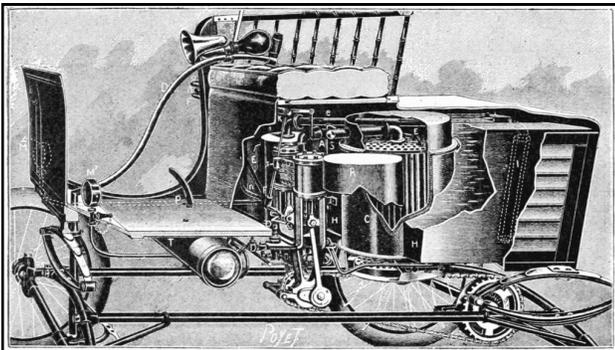
The drawing followed an interesting double blind drawing format and at first Mrs. F. J. Bossler had no idea that she had won. Soon, however, it was reported that she was the happiest woman within 300 miles of the newspaper office. The other contestants graciously congratulated her. Mrs. Bossler had never ridden in any automobile prior to the contest. She was taken out for a test drive in the vehicle and thoroughly enjoyed her ride. She was even allowed to take the controls, I would say "the wheel," but the vehicle had no steering wheel.

She won the drawing on Sunday and on Monday she went to bring it back to Wenonah. She met her instructor at the *Inquirer* office and drove with him to the ferry which took them to Camden. Ignoring

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Sectional view showing part details
From *Popular Science Monthly*, Vol. 57
December 31, 1899

the summer rain, Mrs.. Bossler drove the locomobile home to Wenonah where she was met with an ovation. The steam powered two cylinder vehicle was the first automobile to be owned by a Wenonah resident.

By the time of the 1910 census, the couple had relocated to the New Haven, CT area. In 1918, when Frank registered for the World War I draft, he was working as a wire chief for the New York and Connecticut News Bureau. They had one son, Franklin. Frances passed away in 1960, followed by Frank in 1961. Both were buried in Montowese Cemetery in North Haven, CT.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Dear Members:

We had a great turnout for the October 2014 meeting. Nick Frankunas gave a detailed history of the development of railroads in southern New Jersey. As if on cue, a northbound train whistled past in the middle of his presentation. How appropriate!

This month our presenter will be Eileen Shanahan and Pat Hensinger from the Gloucester County Historical Society. Their topic will be: A PEEK INTO GLOUCESTER COUNTY'S PAST. Our meeting is Friday, November 14th at 7:30 PM. Please try to attend and, as always, think about bringing along a friend, neighbor, relative, etc. The Gloucester County Historical Society always provides excellent Power Point presentations.

WHS Holiday Party: as announced at last month's meeting, our Holiday Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM (not 5:00) on Friday December 12th at the Community Center/Train Station. Once again, the Telford Inn will be catering this festive annual WHS event. The cost is \$22.00 per person. We need to have a number to give the Telford in advance so please send your payment ASAP to Pat Sole, 9 Lenape Trail. Her phone number is (856) 468-6661. Social hour is 6:00 - 7:00 with dinner to follow. Guests are welcome

Also you can bring your payment to our meeting this Friday.

I hope to see you this Friday evening at the train station.

Newsletter Contributions

If you are interested in contributing an article for this newsletter, please contact newsletter editor, Barbara Price, at b.price111@comcast.net.



WENONAH

November 1914

- State Treasurer Edward Grosscup and Mrs. Grosscup entertained Governor Fielder at dinner on Wednesday evening.
- The Methodist parsonage was visited by the stork on Saturday who left Rev. and Mrs. Harry Relyea an eleven pound baby girl.
- Mrs. Potter entertained the Camp Fire Girls and their friends at a Halloween party on Friday evening at her home on So. Mantua Avenue.
- Mr. and Mrs. Ward Heritage entertained a number of their friends at their beautiful tea house at a good old fashioned Halloween party on Wednesday evening. The decorations were perfect, even to the witch with her hat and broom complete. After learning the identity of the various those and that's, the fun started in earnest and after refreshments were served which consisted of all Halloween dainties such as cakes, cider, nuts and candy, the party sojourned much pleasant with the evening and their hostesses.
- Owing to the Lyceum Festival and the big parade in Woodbury coming on Halloween, the mysterious visitors as a whole appeared Monday evening instead. It is learned that they received a hearty reception at each house entered and that several gates, chairs, etc. were missing the next morning.
- Wenonah was well represented at the parade in Woodbury on Saturday evening. Five of our citizens were with the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, who received a silver cup.
- Mr. Edwin H. Ballinger and Miss Anna Bishop of Tioga were married on Wednesday, November 11th. They are now living in an apartment at Overbrook, PA.
- Mr. Edward Holt has secured a position on the passenger trains between Philadelphia and points in Florida.
- The instruments for the YMCA band are now here and practice will be gotten under way in a short time.
- The Boy Scouts defeated the Pitman Boy Scouts on Saturday at football by the score of 42 to 0.
- State Treasurer, Edward E. Grosscup and Mrs. Grosscup, are at Atlantic City for two weeks recreation, after the strenuous campaign season.
- The stork left a baby girl at the home of Grocer Walter Wentzell on Friday last.
- Robert H. Comey is having extensive interior decorations made in his home.
- It is rumored that two new houses will be built shortly in our borough, one by John Nelson and the other by A.H. Everhard of Philadelphia.
- Mr. Chew of Camden has moved into one of Mrs. D.W. Brown's houses on Willow Street, formerly occupied by Edward Brownholts.
- The Wenonah Military cadets will give a dance on Nov. 14 for the benefit of the athletic association. Subscription \$1.00 per couple.
- The Wenonah Public School will give their Thanksgiving play and entertainment in the YMCA hall on Wednesday evening, November 25.
- Mrs. Charles Fredericks has returned home from a month's sojourn in Danville, PA.
- The YMCA purchased a new motion picture machine, which was put in operation for the first time on Saturday evening. The pictures were excellent.

Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Friday, December 11, 2014
Volume 12, Issue 9, December 2014

Christmas Circa 1913

As told to Edith Hoelle by Joseph Williams of Westville, NJ in 1995

Reprinted courtesy of the Gloucester County Historical Society

Christmas Suggestions

GIFTS FOR HIM	GIFTS FOR HER
Silk Shirts in separate boxes, \$1.50 to \$2.50	Ivory Picture Frames.....50c
Ties Galore at.....25c, 50c and 75c	Ivory Pin Cushions.....25c and 50c
Initial Handkerchiefs 2 for 25c and 25c	Ivory Shoe Horns, Nail Files, Button Hooks, Buffers at.....25c
Hosiery in Boxes, 4 pair in box, 50c and \$1	Brooches.....25c and 50c
Gloves.....25c to \$3.50	Rhinestone and Silver Slipper Buckles 50c
Sweaters.....\$1.00 to \$6.00	Le Vallieres.....50c
Boys' Sweaters, Gloves, Trousers, Ties	Cuff Pins.....10c to 50c
Men's Jewelry in Fancy Boxes, 50c to \$1, combination	Fancy Barretts & Hair Pins 25c to \$1
Keen Kutter Kutlery, the finest made 25c to \$1.25	Handkerchiefs in fancy boxes 5c to 25c each
Suspenders, Belts, Garters, and Arm Bands, all kinds, combinations,	Coin Purses.....25c to \$1.50
Special offer of Designer, 30c a year.	Toilet Sets in Ivory.....\$4 and \$4.50
	Manicure Sets.....\$2.50
	Neckwear, all descriptions; Babies' Goods; Art Needlework.

195 S. Broad St. **WICK'S** Bell Phone 318 W Woodbury

Advertisement found in the *Gloucester County Democrat*
December 1913

Several years ago, I had the pleasure of talking to Joseph W. Anderson of Woodbury about his early Christmas memories. He was the son of Walter Anderson and Elizabeth (Dobbs) Anderson, born in Woodbury in 1908.

On Christmas Eve, Joe and his four older sisters, Bessie, Anna, Bertha and Helen, plus five assorted cousins, gathered in his aunt's large brick farmhouse in West Deptford. The Dobbs farm (Albert and Essie Dobbs Ellis) was located off Salem Road, where the Sherwood-on-the-Green housing development is located today. The children, slept two and three to a bed, and because he was the youngest, Joe slept crosswise.

On Christmas morning the children had to wait in their rooms until they heard the bells of Santa Claus.

At the first tinkle, they flew down two flights of stairs to stand awestruck and timid before the sight of that great man, the huge tree and pile of gifts. There never was any doubt in their minds that this Santa Claus was really and truly *the* Santa Claus. (In later years, they did come to notice the absence of Uncle Logan Dobbs.)

Each child received two gifts and the stockings hung over the fireplace the night before, contained an apple, an orange and an unheard of one dollar bill! This was big money indeed!

Later in the day, a long table seating twenty adults featured a suckling pig, standing on clothespins, with cranberry eyes and an apple in its mouth. There was also goose and turkey, all kinds of vegetables and breads, mincemeat and turkey pies.

Christmas Day ended with everyone stuffed, tired and happy, clutching treasures of toys and "left-overs."

2014 WHS OFFICERS

President	Charles Horan
Vice President	Paul Lader
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Charles Horan

Greetings members!

The start of the Christmas Season marks the annual and much anticipated WHS Holiday Dinner. Response was good and we are "sold out" for this event which begins at 6 PM this coming Friday at the Community Center/Train Station.

Please bring your good cheer and a healthy appetite as we share community and celebrate an excellent year for the Wenonah Historical Society.

We have attracted new members and unveiled our Facebook page and WHS website. I am looking forward to seeing you Friday evening at 6.

SPECIAL TRAINS TO PHILADELPHIA

NEW YEARS DAY

Anticipating a record breaking throng of visitors to Philadelphia to view the New Year's Mummers' Pageant—the Mardi Gras of the North—the Pennsylvania Railroad has completed the arrangements for furnishing additional train service to the city on that day. The 1917 parade promises to be the most elaborate and interesting ever held. About 40 clubs of New Year's "shooters" will be in line and great rivalry will be displayed in novel and beautiful costuming effects, caricatures and the presentation of up-to-date features in the floats.

Ten special trains will be operated to Philadelphia, over the Pennsylvania Railroad, from points in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. They will reach Broad Street Station on the morning of January 1st in time to permit viewing the entire pageant, which pass the City Hall about 10 o'clock a.m.

From *The Woodbury Daily Times*, December 20, 1916.

Newsletter Contributions

If you are interested in contributing an article for this newsletter, please contact newsletter editor, Barbara Price, at b.price111@comcast.net.



WENONAH

December 1914

- Miss Helen Gaither is taking a course of domestic science at a Philadelphia college.
- It is rumored that Mr. Richard Kincaid of Mantua has purchased Mr. James Baylies' new house.
- The stork left another boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Fredericks on Thanksgiving Day.
- The west platform of the station has been finished and is composed entirely of stone.
- The Wenonah Military Academy will give "The Pastoral Frolic," an evening of song by the celebrated Apollo Quartette of Philadelphia, on Saturday evening in the academy auditorium.
- Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Vierick expect to move into their new home on S. Lincoln Avenue this week.
- The Wenonah Realty Company have rented the house formerly occupied by Mr. George.
- Considerable excitement was caused on Friday morning by the ringing of the fire bell. It proved to be a field and would have caused considerable damage if it had not been discovered. The hose was not used as the volunteer firemen beat the flames out.
- The Boys Scouts attended the Episcopal church on Sunday morning.
- The Woodbury High School second team trimmed the Wenonah Military Academy junior team by the score of 34 to 14 in basketball, Friday, at Woodbury.
- The cadets of the Wenonah Military Academy left for their homes on Friday for the Christmas holidays.
- Our boys and girls are enjoying the very fine skating on Warner's pond, it being so sheltered the ice is very smooth.
- Old Santa is being assisted to a very great extent this year by the daddies who explore the woods for a fine tree.
- The motion pictures at the YMCA hall on Saturday night were exceptionally good. The four reel picture of Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens' well known story, was excellent.
- Mr. Morgan McKeen is confined to his home with an injured ankle sustained while on duty on his train.
- The Wenonah Masonic Club gave an entertainment on Friday evening to members and their friends.
- Mr. Joseph Noblit, an old resident of our borough, was renewing acquaintances here last week.
- Miss Sargent is home from Bryn Mawr College for the holidays.
- Mr. and Mrs. James Avis and family attended a family reunion on Thanksgiving Day at the home of Hon. J. Boyd Avis at Woodbury.
- Our community was shocked to hear of the sudden death of Robert, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. George McCormick, aged four years, on Thursday. He was operated on at a Philadelphia hospital on Wednesday for adenoids and his blood being in a poor condition caused his death. The funeral services were held on Sunday at 2:30 o'clock. Interment at Wenonah Cemetery.