

WHS OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President, Charles Horan

Vice-President, Nora Taylor

Secretary, Jennie McQuaide

Treasurer, Scott Barnes

Trustee, Lou McCall

Trustee, Paul Lader

TRUSTEES MESSAGE

As we continue to spring forward to a brighter and warmer 2021, we hope you are all getting out more and staying in good health. We will continue to bring you Historical Programs virtually and look forward to meeting again very soon in person! We have so many wonderful stories to share about this town and its history and we look forward to bringing them to you!

If you have a story you would like to hear or one to share, please send it to us. We would love to share some in future newsletters.

Take time as you walk around in this beautiful weather to appreciate all this town has to offer! We look forward to seeing you soon!

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Friday, April 9, 2021 @7:30pm

The Origins of Wenonah: The Town and Its Legends

Join us as we take a visit back in time to the beginnings of this wonderful town. A pictorial tour of our original train station, famous buildings, and the people who helped create our little piece of paradise.

Listen and watch as Karen Heller and Lou McCall bring to life how this town was born.

So grab a favorite beverage and possibly a favorite person, and sit back, relax, enjoy! We will virtually meet via this link:

<https://meet.jit.si/WenonahHistoricalSociety>

Wenonah History Quiz

How many correct answers can you come up with?

1. Who was Wenonah's first mayor?
2. What year was the Wenonah Fire Company incorporated?
3. Between 1896 and 1935, how many trains traveled from Philadelphia to Wenonah in one day?
4. What year did Wenonah Military Academy open?
5. Who was Arthur J. Holeton?
6. What year was Mantua Avenue paved?

Tune in to Friday's online meeting at 7:30 for the quiz answers!

The Woman's Club of Wenonah

Submitted by Jennie McQuaide



Littlegrange fundraiser at the Farr home, 300 E. Mantua Ave., 1925

At 98 years old, the Woman's Club of Wenonah is among the oldest organizations in Wenonah. Our founding mothers were intent on advocating for women and participating in community events. They specifically used the singular form – woman – because they wanted to focus on the individual.

They were strong supporters of the Wenonah Public Library which had been built and donated by the Edward Farr family. They held major extravaganzas to raise money for the library. In May 1925, they staged a May Fair at the Farr residence. Members dressed in costumes representing jesters, gypsies, milk maids, and chimney sweeps. There was a parade of 40 little girls with beautifully trimmed doll coaches and dolls. This was followed by May pole dances. They raised over \$600.

In 1928, a Pageant of Women was held at the Military Academy Gymnasium. More than 400 people attended. It included 14 episodes featuring women such as Betsy Ross, Susan B. Anthony, Florence Nightingale, Clara Barton, and Joan of Arc. In 1931, "The Little Shawl Pageant" was presented. It contained 15 vignettes – each featured a shawl representing different stages of life or different cultures – among them – an Indian shawl, an immigrant's shawl, and a baby's shawl. It had a cast of 75. In 1933 a "Beggars' Fair" was held. It had been scheduled for the Wenonah Park but was moved to the Military Academy porch due to a downpour. Tea and supper were served there. Later that evening the Academy Band provided music for a dance which was attended by 150 people. Another fundraiser was hosted by our second President, Jessie White. She decorated every room in her home to depict different scenes from Charles Dickens' Books.

Our support for the Wenonah Public Library has continued throughout our history. In addition to making an annual donation, we've helped to repair books and inventory them and we've assisted with spring and fall book sales. For the past several years, we've purchased a museum pass which can be used by residents who wish to enjoy a family outing via the borrowed pass. In 1965, Mayor Russell Lee commended the Club for conducting a door-to-door solicitation for funds for the library. One of our special traditions is donating a book to the library in memory of a deceased member. We select a book which focuses on a special interest of that woman.

Throughout our history, we've had very active focus groups which held meetings in addition to the general membership meetings. For many years, the Music department had an active chorus of 12 to 18 women. They provided countless programs for our Club. In addition, they performed at nursing homes and at district festivals and state federation events. Our Drama department consisted of many talented members who wrote, directed, and performed skits and plays for our Club as well as for district events. At times, we've had an active Art department which met on a weekly basis. Many of the artists exhibited their works at district and state competitions and frequently brought home gold and blue ribbons. Over the years, many talented members shared their skills and taught others. We learned drapery making, quilting, and rug braiding. Together with the Clearview-Wenonah Juniors, we published a cookbook which featured recipes from our members.

Our Garden department has been responsible for beautifying many areas of our community. In the 1940s, we donated money to plant the dogwood trees in the borough park. We raised several thousand dollars to repair broken pavement in the park. The new sidewalk sections were installed in 1997. When the new Municipal Building was constructed, we purchased trees and shrubs which were planted between the curb and sidewalk and we're regular par-

ticipants in Wenonah's Clean Community Days.

In conjunction with our 80th anniversary, all our club members signed their names in a copy of our 80th anniversary yearbook and that was given to the Borough to be included in a 50-year time capsule that is stored at the new municipal building.

We currently have a reading group called the Book Lovers' Affair which is open to members and the general public, as well. The group meets virtually at this time. Reading groups have existed throughout most of our history.

We've participated in many July 4th celebrations with a float or a marching unit. In 1955, through our International Relations department, we purchased a heifer for a farmer in Java. That year we borrowed a heifer named "Peanut Butter" and she was part of our parade entry! Our 1965 float featured books with live characters – among them were Abraham Lincoln from "Love Is Eternal" and young children from "Heidi". Our 1972 float depicted signers of the Constitution with our members wearing costumes of the era.

In the early years, meetings were held in members' homes. As membership increased, we moved to other locations – including the Presbyterian Church Recreation Room, Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, and the Community Center. Of course, due to the pandemic, we currently meet virtually.

In December 1982, in conjunction with other Wenonah groups, our first Wine and Cheese Party was held. Over \$1,000 was donated to the Wenonah Fire Company to purchase a Thumper (a mechanical device to do CPR). Wine and Cheese parties continued for over 30 years. Other important fundraisers were Christmas House Tours and Garden tours.

We sponsored an annual American Red Cross Blood Drive for more than 10 years. Between 2001 and 2011, we collected 924 units of whole blood. The drive became so large that we had to move from the Presbyterian Church to the Wenonah Elementary School.

Several years ago, we purchased two outdoor benches for the Community Center. Subsequently, we led a campaign to replace the dilapidated benches which lined Mantua Avenue. We reached out to other civic groups and, together, we purchased the four new benches.

Our May Breakfast was first held in May 1935. Although it was called a breakfast, it was held at noon and

featured a lunch menu. Breakfast was never served. Our annual installation of officers takes place at this meeting. Due to the changing needs of our members, May Breakfast is now a dinner meeting.

For many years, we had a Husband and Guest Night featuring a covered dish dinner and an interesting program. That transformed into our Friendship Dinner when we invite members of other Wenonah organizations to join us for a social time and an opportunity to network.

For several years we shared the Senior Bus with Woodbury Heights. We organized educational trips to Longwood Gardens, Grounds for Sculpture, and Winterthur which were enjoyed by our Wenonah residents.

In addition, we've sponsored writing contests at the Wenonah Elementary School, presented awards to 6th grade graduates, sent candidates to Girls' Career Institute, awarded scholarships to high school graduates, and sponsored several Girl Scout troops.

Members of our Club are also members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC founded in 1890) and the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC founded in 1894). Our parent organizations have been strong advocates for women – participating in campaigns to grant women the right to vote, promoting passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act, supporting the Equal Rights Amendment, and establishing over 75% of the country's libraries. In recent years, NJSFWC has adopted many special projects including Canine Companions for Independence, the Community Food Bank, Autism New Jersey, and Operation Chillout. You will note that our parent organizations use the plural form – women – because the focus is on the clubs made up of many women.

Currently, we have Co-Presidents for the first time in our Club history. Through their leadership, we have developed the Farmers Market and the Luminary project, and we've had a significant increase in membership. We were honored that our Farmers Market Team members were selected to be the Wenonah Volunteers of 2020! The Farmers Market opens on Thursday, May 6 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM and will continue weekly throughout the summer.

In 2022–23, we will be celebrating our 100th anniversary throughout the Club year. You will hear more about our plans through our website and our borough newsletter. For more information about our Club and the Farmers Market, please visit our website - <https://www.womansclubofwenonah.org/> We cordially invite you to become a member of our Club.

Wenonah A Century Ago—April 1921
Taken from *The Woodbury Constitution*

- Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Ralston have sold their home their home at Woodbury Heights and with little Wayne Jr. are living with their parents until their new home is built.
- Be kind to animal tags are being sold in Wenonah this week and next by Paul Sargent who will appreciate selling a tag to every one in town to help the SPCA National Humane Week.
- Governor Edwards has reappointed Dr. Harry A. Stout of Wenonah to the State Board of Medical Examiners.
- Mr. Howard Jacobs is building a ten-room bungalow on No. Monroe avenue that is causing comment on the speed with which it is being built, it having been started a week ago and the entire building is up and sheathed.
- Melvin V. Greenig of East Elm avenue has gone into business for himself in cement work. He is thoroughly competent in that line of work, having had fifteen years experience in general concrete construction, five of which were spent with the E.I. DuPont Co. in the capacity of general foreman. Melvin, a Wenonah boy, having spent almost all his life here, would appreciate the townspeople's patronage.
- The Presbyterian congregational supper was held in the church recreation room last Wednesday evening. There were nearly 25 present who enjoyed the bountiful supper provided by the ladies of the church after which the yearly congregational meeting was held. Trustees were elected and plans talked over for the coming year, after which the meeting adjourned.
- The Wenonah Athletic Club held their regular meeting Monday night. The last indoor meeting will be held on Monday, April 11th, when a second contest will be staged between the east and west sides. The last meeting will be ladies' night and visitors will be especially invited to this meeting.

Answers to the March Wenonah History Quiz



1. The Memorial Presbyterian Church is the only structure in Wenonah that is on the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places.



2. Mr. Comey, who made straw hats, lived here.



3. The Grosscup Building is now the dance studio.



4. This is the former home of Victor Anderson, a Civil War buff. The house was originally owned and built by Daniel Brown about 1874.



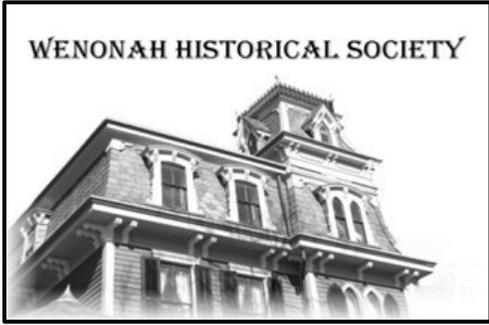
5. Hannah Bailey Farr's home is now the dental office.



Just a Reminder...

Membership dues are still being accepted.

New members are always welcome!



PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Benefits

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

BRING FORM AND PAYMENT TO MEETING, OR MAIL.

WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO

AMOUNT PAID \$ CHECK _____ CASH _____

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

