

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 9 December 2008

U.S. PRESIDENTS AND WENONAH

With Presidential politics dominating the headlines in recent months, I thought it would be interesting to review the history of U.S. Presidents in Wenonah. In 1910 then Governor of New Jersey, Dr. Woodrow Wilson, attended chapel services at the Wenonah Military Academy and delivered an address to cadets. In 1912 he was elected President. In May 1912, former President Theodore Roosevelt was running for President and made several campaign stops in the area, including Wenonah. He delivered an address in the park. According to deceased local historians Milton Webb and Victor Anderson, Roosevelt slept at the Scargel residence at 109 S. Clinton Avenue. I am not aware of any documentation to substantiate these reports. But if any of you are or if any of you have additional information about these visits, we would love to hear about it.

BACKGROUND ON 1912 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

For you to appreciate the articles that follow, I thought it would be helpful to present a brief background on the 1912 election. According to PBS, the 1912 Presidential election was one of the most extraordinary stories in our country's political history. The choices facing voters was more diverse than at any other time in the 20th century. Four major candidates were running for President

each with their own specific plan for tackling the nation's problems. Incumbent President William Howard Taft was re-nominated by the Republican party with the support of the conservative wing of the party. After former President Theodore Roosevelt failed to get the Republican nomination, he called his own convention and created a new Progressive Party (nicknamed the

WHS OFFICERS 2008

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

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

"Bull Moose Party"). Woodrow Wilson was the Democratic nominee and Eugene Debbs was the Socialist Party candidate.

Brenda Birkland

WOODBURY DAILY TIMES
MAY 24, 1912

Col. Roosevelt will be here tomorrow evening about 6 o'clock. The meeting will be held in the park if the weather is fair; should it be stormy it will be held in the drill hall of the Academy. Let everybody turn out and greet the Colonel.

COL. ROOSEVELT'S BIG RECEPTION WOODBURY DAILY TIMES MAY 25, 1912

Ex-President Warmly Greeted All
Along the Line

Col. Roosevelt arrived in Woodbury last evening at 6:30, about fifteen minutes late. He found a crowd of people estimated from 2500 to 5000, who hailed him with a mighty cheer. After the Moose Band had finished playing "Gee But It's Great to Meet a Friend From Your Old Town," the Colonel stood up in his automobile which had stopped in front of the monument and talked for ten minutes. Then he stepped from his automobile into Dr. H. H. Clark's, accompanied by Adon W. Cattell, and they whisked up Broad to Newton avenue, to Euclid, to Cooper, to Broad, down Broad to Glassboro avenue, and down Glassboro avenue to his private car, which immediately pulled out for Camden. It was then 6:45 and the Col. Said that he had to take a bath, eat his supper and be shaved, all by 7:30, when he spoke at the Camden Armory.

The Col. met with a great reception all along the line. He was twenty minutes late in arriving at Glassboro, and his time was so closely scheduled that he could not make it up.

A large crowd greeted him at Glassboro, Pitman, Barnsboro, Wenonah. Flags were displayed at all these places, and at farm houses

along the road. At one farm house a woman was seen holding two small children in her arms and at the same time waving a small flag. The Colonel noticed the woman with her babies and doffed his hat.

The Colonel was accompanied by Hon. John Boyd Avis, Custodian Adon W. Cattell, Dr. H. H. Clark, Former Governors Stokes and Forr, Frank B. Jess, L. L. Hurley, Dr. Hires, Dr. Black and others. During the part of the trip from Glassboro there were seventy automobiles in line. He rode in C A. Hilyard’s new six cylinder Everett car from Glassboro to Woodbury.

The Colonel was more than pleased with his reception here. Our people decorated their houses with flags and bunting.

SPEECH BY GOVERNOR WILSON
TO THE CADETS OF THE
WENONAH MILITARY ACADEMY
OCTOBER 6, 1910

His speech in front of the Court House follows:

“My friends, it is indeed a pleasure to be here be here and see you. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself in New Jersey these two days. I appreciate your feeling and the interest you have given me, and now friends, I feel that I have a peculiar right to appeal to you in this contest if we are to stand by our rights. We are asking only that you yourselves shall see that you have the power and the will to rule yourself: to control you own government. (Indicating) you, you, you and I. There has never been such a springing up of the plain people against the bosses. (The Colonel’s attention is called by ladies on the upper floors of the Merritt Block asking him to face toward them. He turned and waving to them said, “You will hear me in a moment. You shall have a square deal.” I ask you I am only asking for only the right, and claim for ourselves, that we wish to rule ourselves. Each of us wishes to rule himself. You do, I do. I know that I make mistakes, but I want to make them myself. I do not want others to make them for me. So, we have a right to appeal our cause. History shows us that all of the American people have in some time made mistakes in its government. We still make them. The only way we can get real justice is to have the rule of the people and not the rule of the

bosses.” (Stepping into the other auto the Colonel continued) Now friends, I ask in this contest that the people of New Jersey show themselves awake to the issues of the fight as they have in every state where there has been direct primaries and there the people have shown themselves, from Maine to California, wherever we could get a chance against our foes there the people have and can win. I would not be in New Jersey if they did not have the primaries. I did not go into Connecticut because the plain people did not have a chance. I cannot do anything with the politician but I have made my plea straight to the people of New

WENONAH NEWS
WOODBURY DAILY TIMES
May 25, 1912

Jersey for you to get in this line-up between the people and the bosses; between the Abraham Lincoln plain people and the powers that be. I ask that you, on Tuesday next put New Jersey beside Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania and Ohio.

About three hundred people greeted Col. Roosevelt here last evening. He was given a rousing reception. One man did not seem to enjoy it as he was seen going home with his family.

“I wish it were possible” said Mr. Wilson “to impress upon fellows at your age the great importance of what you are doing here. I suppose, as most boys do, that school is a necessary evil and few realize it is to equip them for a better battle of life. The men who loaf don’t get anywhere, don’t amount to any thing; it is only the men who achieve who get anywhere.

“It is a question for you to answer whether you are going to be mere tools in the hands of someone else or are going to be masters and take hold of things. Don’t be foolish enough to ask what the sense of this is. You go to the gymnasium and wonder what the use of it all is. You will never perform on the parallel-bars with your business partner. You are expending good muscular strength and wonder what the use of it all is. You are just getting your muscles in shape to answer the call when the time comes for you to use them.

It is just like the piece of structural steel fitted in all its fibers to meet the strain in the steamship when the stress of storm of the Atlantic comes. It is just so with

your books. They are getting you men fully fit when the contingency arises and you are called upon to wrestle with the problems of life; you are mentally fit to meet the stress. Don't lose sight of the fact that you want to play a creditable part in the world to do something in its great work.

"A school like this is a breeding place for men. Some one said, "If you would consider me witty, I must ask you to make a joke. If you would be considered educated, I must ask you to know something. The witty man who preceded me as head of the university (Princeton) once told an anxious mother whose son was about to begin the course: "Madam, we guarantee satisfaction or return the boy". Most men I know, after their years of experience, would like to go back and be schoolboys again and gain the greater profit from the advantages then obtained. Take the advice of one who knows, who has been through it, and lay hold of all that you can here obtain for the building of your bodies and minds, that you may be useful citizens in this great land.

Woodbury Daily Times
Letter to the Editor
May 24, 1912

Dear Sir – There are times in the life of every man, whether he be rich or poor, that he should take time and thought enough to thoroughly resolve in his own mind, to cast the ballot for what he thinks the best candidate who will represent the people regardless of politicians who enter into politics so often for their own benefit.

At the present time, we are confronted with our President and Ex-President, touring the country, telling the people of each others short-comings, in which we, the people, are not interested, but what we are interested in is having a God fearing man s President our United Country – one that gives his very best talents and who is guided by the Supreme Power above in all of his official actions.

In my opinion, we have such a man in the Presidential chair, in our President, Wm. H. Taft, who unfortunately has been driven to make answer to the attacks of the Ex-President in his speeches throughout the states.

I shall just say this much as to Theodore Roosevelt. In my humble opinion, Roosevelt of today is not the Roosevelt who succeeded our beloved Ex-President, Wm. B. McKinley. From his present actions and expressions, he seems to want to make it appear that he is the only man in the United States fit to become President, and that "I am the Saviour of the Country." From his actions and remarks one might think that he feels like the remark credited to the present Emperor of German – "Me and God."

Now just the reverse of this is what we, the people want, and as one of the people, and a Republican, because I believe in the principles, I feel it my duty to vote for Wm. Taft, as President of the United States for four years more, so that the experience that he has had in the past may be a help to him to correct any mistakes in the future, if any have been made.

He like ourselves is mortal and cannot please all.

I hear so much of our President conferring with such men as Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania. Do they forget the same Senators are not there to represent the people, but the Legislators, a chosen few selected and sent to the Legislative bodies by political leaders or bosses, who control these men for their own gain and influence.

The time is ripe for the people to use their own good judgment, and have the U.S. Senators elected by the people who would be guided by the majority of the citizens of the sections of the country which he represents.

This would bring the President of the United States in closer touch with the people, through the Senator, whom they elect to represent them.

Look at the Grand Old Man, Major of Philadelphia, Rudolph Blankenburg, standing like a rock, doing what is right for the best interests of the whole people, regardless of politicians.

The people arose in their might and threw off the yoke with which they had been girdles so long and elected the right man in the right place.

Go thou and do likewise.

RICHARD C. BALLINGER,
Wenonah, NJ

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

Stamp
Here

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2008

Membership Benefits

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____

CHECK _____ CASH _____

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

WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR
