

# Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

# Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1 January 2004

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

The Wenonah Historical Society has had a very active 2003. Our membership has reached an all time high of over 100 Families. We have been reaching out to the community and have been actively recruiting new members, particularly targeting new residents with welcoming packets.

We have advertised our monthly programs and meetings in both our local newsletter and the Gloucester County Times. Two of our programs were both sponsored and paid for by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities-Horizon Speakers Bureau. Margaret Westfield, a Historic Architect, Preservation Consultant and Coordinator of the Burlington County College Historic Preservation Certificate Program also provided two programs.

We have been very active in fundraisers and have added several new items for purchase including a Garden Flag of Princess Wenonah, and an updated mug with a color photo of the Historic Train station.

Lastly we have started to plan for the conversion of the upper

floor of the train station into a Wenonah Museum. The museum will showcase our collection of artifacts, maps, newspapers and pictures. This endeavor may be costly and time consuming and we will be reaching out to the community for financial contributions and Volunteers. We would like to have the Museum Officially open for our Fourth of July Celebration.

### WHS OFFICERS 2004

**President:** *Rocco Doto*  
**Vice Pres.** *Jack Sheppard Sr.*  
**Secretary** *Eileen Caraker*  
**Treasurer** *Carol Wiltsee*  
**Corr. Sec.** *Betty MacLeod*  
**Trustee** *Vicki McCall*  
**Trustee**

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

we will continue to work with the Mayor and Council with regard to the renovations planned for the Train Station as part of the T21 grant that Wenonah was awarded by the State.

We will also be responding and clarifying our Nomination of Historic Places (Train Depot) to the State Historic Preservation office which has tentatively approved our submission.

2004 will be an exciting year and I am so thankful to be your President and coordinate with the other Trustees our long dreamed about museum. I am sure that the whole town will be as surprised as I was in seeing all of the various artifacts in our possession and the many more that we continue to receive.

I wish all of you a Peaceful, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

## COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

The railroad station Community Center finally has its new roof, matching that of the new Borough Hall building opposite the post office. To say that we are happy would be an understatement, as the building was fast becoming an eyesore.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE WENONAH INN HOTEL

"People desirous of witnessing the program for the celebration of the Fourth of July in Wenonah and remain throughout the day will be served with dinner and supper at reduced rates. Prices for dinner, 75 cents, supper 50 cents."

*From the Constitution newspaper circa 1880*

The following notice was retrieved from the files of Milton H. Webb

**SHERIFF'S SALE**

By virtue of a writ of fieri facias, to me directed. issued out of the Court of Chancery of the State -of New Jersey, will be exposed at Public Sale, on

**Friday, the 18th day of October 1935**

next, between the hours of 12 and 5 o'clock, to-wit, at 2 o'clock Standard Time in the afternoon of said-day, at the Sheriff's Office, County Building, In the City of Woodbury. County of Gloucester, and State of New Jersey, all the following described Real Estate, that is to say:

ALL the following tract or parcel of land and premises hereinafter particularly described, situate; lying and being In the Borough of Wenonah In the County of Gloucester and State, of New Jersey, bounded and described as follows;

BEGINNING at a point In the East line of Clinton Avenue 150 feet South of the. South-east corner of Clinton and Mantua Avenues and running thence (1) In an Easterly direction parallel with Mantua Avenue, 300 feet to the West line of Marion Avenue; thence (2) in a Southerly direction along the said line of Marion Avenue, 297 feet 6 inches to the North line of Cherry-Street; thence (3) in a Westerly direction along the said line of Cherry Street 150 feet to a point; thence (4) in a Northerly direction at right angles with said line of Cherry Street 100 feet to-a corner; thence (5) In a Westerly direction parallel with said North line of Cherry ,Street 150 feet to the said East line of Clinton Avenue; thence (6) in a Northerly direction along the said line of Clinton Avenue 197 feet 6 -inches to the place of beginning.

TOGETHER with all and singular the goods and chattels, furniture, household utensils, machinery, books, linen, rifles, equipment, and any and all other property of every kind and description contained in those certain building or buildings known as The Wenonah Military Academy and used in connection with that institution, including all, good and chattels which may hereafter replace the same and all goods for which the same may be exchanged.

It being the intent that the above description includes all of the property, real and personal, used in the. operation of the military academy formerly the Wenonah Military Academy and now known as Wenonah Military Academy, Inc.

The approximate amount of decree sought .to be satisfied by this sale is\$65,500.

Seized as the property of Anna J; .Lorence, widow, et als, Defendants, and taken in execution at the suit of. Walter Lee Sheppard, substituted trustee, et als, Complainants, and to be sold by

WILLIAM A. DOWNER, Jr., Sheriff

Dated September 24, 1935.

RIGGINS & DAVIS, Solicitors

Price of above advertisement is \$25.16.

Although the automobile forced the closing of the Wenonah Inn built in 1871, a new era opened in Wenonah. Major J.R. Jones, former head of the drill team sponsored by the John Wanamaker Store, Philadelphia, riding past the vacant Wenonah Inn, conceived an idea for the use of the facility. He immediately relayed his plan to Stephen Greene.

The Wenonah Military Academy opened September 20, 1904.

In rooms that formerly accommodated hotel guests interested in hops and cuisine, the rooms now accommodated cadets interested in horsemanship and, supposedly, Cicero. Hotel rooms were converted to classrooms, dormitories, a library, a chapel and an infirmary, although a communication to parents hinted the infirmary would rarely be used.

Although Wenonah was accustomed to the social activities of the Wenonah Inn during the summer, the Wenonah Military Academy kept the town hopping during the school term. The first month the Academy was opened, there were a reception and dance for two hundred people, a skating carnival on Warner's Lake with hundreds of lighted lanterns, a minstrel show, a house party and numerous football games. This was the beginning of a social whirl that kept Wenonah spinning for the next thirty years. Wenonah residents were invited to band concerts, glee club performances, drama productions, declamation contests and horsemanship exhibitions. Local girls vied for invitations to dances and on Sunday the whole town turned out for the dress parade and drill demonstrations.

During the presidency of Dr. Charles H. Lorence, the Wenonah Military Academy reached its peak with an enrollment of 200 cadets who arrived from as far away as California and Cuba. Upon the death of Dr. Lorence, Major Clayton A. Snyder assumed the presidency. For 23 years Major Lloyd L. Lammert was headmaster and athletic director. Other key members of the faculty included Captain Thomas A. Clingan, instructor in mathematics and Mary Bilderback, instructor in instrumental music. Dr. Thomas J. Mulvey was director of advertising. Cadets enrolled in the classical, Latin-scientific, or English-commercial courses. Military science included instruction in rifle practice, infantry drills, horsemanship and military discipline. Horsemanship instruction was \$100 extra, but it included the rental of the horse.

In 1913 the annual charges of \$600 included "tuition, board, heat light, twelve pieces of laundry and mending of underclothing." Tuition doubled during the years but included "table linen, pressing and use of firearms." However this charge did not include the \$250 cost for a uniform. The cadet wore a uniform of gray with a white belt and white crisscross straps both in front and back of the jacket and the hat was held by a chinstrap. The officers' full dress uniform included a sword, sash and shako. By 1916 the Academy announced that there is "now a waiting list; every available space is filled."

While military discipline soon earned the Academy the name of "The West Point of South Jersey," athletics brought fame to the school. On Stephen Greene's athletic field where the grandstand held 500 spectators, cadets ran a quarter-mile cinder track, played football with prep schools like Malvern, Seton Hall and Pennington, played baseball and practiced horsemanship and military tactics. A twelve-acre field along Glassboro Road was used for polo and lacrosse. Golf was played at the Oak Valley Country Club, sometimes referred to as the Wenonah Country Club or, originally Altwald Golf Links, which was situated in a wooded area off Ogden Road. The word "ogden" is derived from the Swedish word meaning "valley of oaks."

During the summer the polo ponies were taken to the Pocono area where Camp Wenonah was established for a number of years. On the Wenonah polo field one polo team defeated a West Point team. Many graduating cadets gained recognition on college teams and Herbert J. Pennock, who became a major league pitcher, is named in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY

In addition to the former Wenonah Inn, the Wenonah Military Academy occupied the Charles H. Lorence Cottage that housed senior cadets and the Clayton A. Snyder Cottage that housed junior cadets. A drill hall was built behind the Academy and it was claimed to have the largest floor space of any gymnasium in South Jersey. It was large enough to drill an entire battalion, and of course, to accommodate the dances. At one mid-term reception and dance six hundred people attended.

After the games and dances the cadets escorted their guests to the Wenonah Drug Store and to Walter Wentzell's store for sandwiches and ice cream.



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Here

Wenonah Historical Society  
PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

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# Wenonah Historical Society

## Membership APPLICATION 2004

### Membership Benefits

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAILED TO YOUR HOME
- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INFORMATIVE PROGRAMS
- ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA
- NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGEABLE HISTORIANS
- HISTORICAL FIELD TRIPS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR

BRING FORM AND PAYMENT TO MEETING, OR MAIL. THANK YOU  
WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090

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