

# Wenonah Historical Society Newsletter

Next Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Friday, March 13, 2015  
Volume 13, Issue 3, March 2015

**One** of the early newspapers in Woodbury was the weekly *Gloucester County Democrat*. The paper, initially known as the *Mantua News*, was started in Mantua in August 1878 by William T. Gibbs. In October of that year, the Democratic County Committee prevailed on Mr. Gibbs to move the paper to the county seat in Woodbury and change its name to the *Gloucester County Democrat*. The original equipment consisted of a small job press, two stands, four cases of body type (two each of brevier and burgeois) and about six small fonts of display or job type.

By the following February, Mr. Gibbs, deeply in debt, left Woodbury. His largest creditor, Belmont Perry, Gloucester County Prosecutor, took possession of the paper. By the third issue in March, James Carpenter was proprietor, editor and publisher, a position which he held for the next 36 years..

The original annual subscription price of the paper, a had been fifty cents for a six column folio. The subscription price was raised by the new publisher to \$1.50 for a seven column folio.

The publication office was located in the small hostler's room at the east end of the Newton Hotel stables at the southwest corner of Broad and Delaware Streets. At that time, Mahlon W. Newton, the hotel proprietor, was in the process of building an addition to the hotel on Delaware Street. When the addition was finished in May 1879, the newspaper office was moved to the second floor.

The first newspaper press, known as a Washington hand press, was purchased. Previously the inside pages of the paper had been printed by a short-lived rival newspaper, the *Liberal Press*. Within two years, circulation had increased to 1,000 and a faster press was needed. A used Taylor drum cylinder press was purchased from a consolidating North Jersey newspaper.

After purchasing the new press, the newspaper moved to new quarters in the northeast room of the new Green's Block (the recently renovated building which later housed the old Charming Shoppe), at Broad and Centre Streets. An upright Baxter steam

engine was installed and the paper was enlarged to an eight column folio printed by steam power.

In 1887, the newspaper was again looking to expand. The property of Judge Benjamin F. Carter at present-day 22 South Broad Street was purchased. The house was occupied by a tenant while a two-story frame building was built on the side for the newspaper. With the additional space, another enlargement of the paper to a nine column folio, known as a blanket sheet, was accomplished.

In 1903, the blanket sheet was replaced by a much larger sheet and another new press was necessary. A front delivery, two-revolution Campbell press supplanted the old Taylor drum cylinder and a five horse power Otto gas engine took the place of a much smaller gas engine. A folding machine, the first in use in the county, completed the new equipment. In January 1908, the first type setting machine, a Mergenthaler Linotype No. 5, was installed.

In 1915, a new owner took possession of the *Gloucester County Democrat*. At that time, the paper had few rivals in mechanical equipment among weekly newspapers in the state of New Jersey. Circulation had increased to 2,500.

Within the next decade, there would be many other weekly newspapers being published in Gloucester County including the *Woodbury Constitution*, *Pitman Grove Review*, *Paulsboro Record*, *Swedesboro News* and *Glassboro Enterprise*. While the *Woodbury Daily Times* (later the *Daily Times*, *Gloucester County Times* and today the *South Jersey Times*) began in 1897, it was a different news format from the local weekly papers. The *Times* prioritized national news on the front page with local news on subsequent pages. The weeklies reported mostly local news with "gossip" columns for each community written.

In 1938, the *Gloucester County Democrat* published its last issue. The building still stands today, currently the home of King of Steaks. The newspaper banner can be seen inscribed above the second floor. This newspaper, along with the other papers mentioned above and many more, are available to researchers in the collections of the Gloucester County Historical Society.

## 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

### Gloucester County Historical Society

Annual Meeting

**April 8: Gloucester Militia, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion**

**at the Battles of Trenton & Princeton**

**Presented by Rev. Norman Goos**

**GCHS Library @7pm**

**17 Hunter St., Woodbury**

**Free Admission; light refreshments**

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**April 16: Introduction to  
the Philadelphia City Archives**

**GCHS Library, @7pm**

**17 Hunter St., Woodbury**

**Free admission; light refreshments**

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**April 21: NJ State Archives Research Trip**  
**\$32 members/\$37 non-members**

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**Limited Seating**

**Call (856) 845-4771 for reservations.**

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Charles Horan*

We have turned the clocks ahead and today Barbara and I took a walk around town with temperatures in the balmy 50 degree range. All signs are pointing to an end to this weather madness. I think I speak for many when I exclaim "I'VE HAD IT !!!." Last week I submitted a WHS article in the Borough Spring Newsletter. Please take a moment to read it. There are submissions by several other volunteer groups in town. Many are planning warm weather events. During this month's meeting (Friday 7:30) we will hold elections. A slate of candidates was presented at the February meeting.

Our program this month will feature a **Downton Abbey** theme since the season finale aired last Sunday evening. The period drama depicts the lives of the aristocratic Crawley family and their servants in the post-Edwardian era in England. Great events in history have an impact on their lives and the British social hierarchy in general.

The presenters will dress in period attire and talk about life during that era. There will be a Downton Abbey Trivia game as well as related items on display. Hope to see you Friday evening.

### Harrison Township Historical Society

Taking a cue from the old saying, "if these walls could talk," the artifacts included in our new Spring exhibit will get a chance to do just that. Through an on-line audio soundtrack, sixteen objects from the museum's collection will lead visitors through an entertaining exploration of the past.

Saturdays & Sundays, March 14 – May 17, 1-4 pm

Free admission

Old Town Hall Museum.

South Main St. & Woodstown Rd., Mullica Hill, NJ



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WENONAH  
A Century Ago

Musician Howard Adams of the Academy takes great pleasure in helping our YMCA boys at all times and his services are much appreciated by the boys.

Miss Ruth Avis, nurse at Dr. Price's Hospital, was home for the weekend.

The stork visited the home of Prof. and Mrs. Charles Harrington last week and left a little son.

Mr. and Mrs. William Thatcher gave a party on Friday evening in honor of their daughter, Mary Elizabeth's sixth birthday. The children were entertained with a magic lantern exhibition and games after which they were invited to the dining room. Mary Elizabeth received many pretty and useful gifts.

A double birthday surprise party was given by their children and grandchildren to Mrs. Susannah Voght, who was 84 years old on Monday and to her sister, Mrs. Mary Hope, who was 85 years old on Tuesday, on Tuesday evening at their home on Mantua Avenue.

Alonzo Beckett has purchased a Ford touring car and Joseph Schernick is building the foundation for the garage.

Mr. and Mrs. Porter are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son.

Mr. Ferrell and family of Camden have moved into the Green property formerly occupied by the Westwoods.

A large number were present at the prayer meeting last Wednesday evening at the Methodist Church as it was a farewell meeting before Rev. H.A. Relyea's departure for Cape May City.

Rev. John Allen, the new pastor of the ME Church,

preached two good sermons on Sunday in large congregations. Opera music was rendered and the Brotherhood attended in a body in the evening.

Little Meredith Lewis has returned from Dr. Price's Hospital entirely recovered from the operation performed after the coasting accident 6 weeks ago.

About fifteen boys and girls attended the Loyal Temperance Legion on Monday afternoon which has been reorganized under the direction of Mrs. Samuel Mehorter.

Jack Roden has been elected by the YMCA baseball team as their manager for the coming season.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burdsall, nee Rena Ogden, are receiving congratulations on the birth of a son.

The Waldebeum Gun Club has just completed their new club house and will hold their first shoot Saturday, March 13th.

Miss Cecilia Sargent was home from Bryn Mawr College for the weekend.

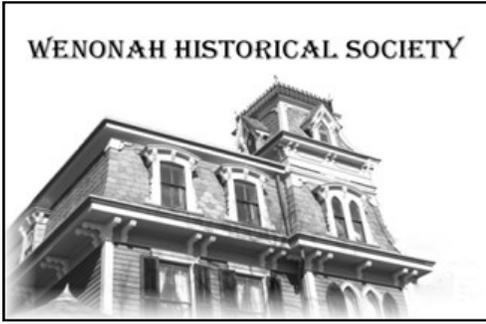
At the Presbyterian Church next Sunday morning there will be an ordination and installation of elders.

The Academy basketball team won from the "Biddles" of Philadelphia by the score of 56 to 17 on Saturday evening.

Arthur Benson has been home sick from Lehigh University.

Miss Eleanor Stout is home from Bucknell College for the Easter holidays.

Miss Ethel Grosscup is home from the college in Baltimore where she is an instructor for the Easter holidays.



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PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

# WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2014

## Membership Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO

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