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BURLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITIES

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Graduate remembers the old Wenonah academy

The Wenonah Military Academy has been closed for 71 years, but one of its graduates still has memories of his days there as a cadet.

Robert Q. Hinckle, now 91 and living in Bryn Mawr, Pa., was 17 years old in 1935 when he entered the academy. In 1932, Hinckle, who is still chairman of R.Q. Hinckle and Son Inc., a supplier of material for incentives and awards, lived in West Philadelphia when he entered the academy.



Thomas Senghauser
Frankling
History

He says it cost his family approximately \$600 a year to send him there. He does not know if he is the only surviving graduate and points out that the academy's annual alumni reunions stopped in the mid-1990s.

Hinckle's first teacher was Capt. David C. Knight, whose daughter Kathy MacGregor of Mantua is determined to keep memories of the academy alive. She says the academy taught students from kindergarten through the 12th grade.

But for 1961, Wenonah had lost its popularity as a summer recreation spot to the academy, and in 1962, Jones made the offer to convert the old tin 10th-century academy. Through the purchase of Stephen Green, a Philadelphia printer, the tin underwent two years of renovations.

The academy's main building was a spacious structure with accommodations for 120 students. There were two athletic fields — one for football, baseball and track, the second for lacrosse and polo. Besides its many classrooms, the academy had a drill hall, gymnasium, library and science hall.

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Hinckle remembers three choices of curriculum for high school: commercial, scientific, with extra-curriculars such as baseball, basketball, football and polo. Records show there were actually four curriculum choices — the three Hinckle recalls and English.



Photograph Courtesy of Kathy MacGregor

Academy opens in 1904

According to Gloucester County Historical Society records, Maj. John J. Jones founded the academy and it finally opened in 1904. But before it became an academy, the building housing the school had been the Wenonah Inn.

Dr. Charles H. Lorenz, who was superintendent from 1912 to 1915, opened an education

Strong in sports

Records show that the academy excelled in athletics, winning championships in football, baseball, basketball and track, and that its polo team was unbeatable, once routing the West Point team.

The records also show that Dr. Charles H. Lorenz, who was superintendent from 1912 to 1915, opened an education

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Above: The Wenonah Military Academy is seen in an old photograph. At right, the old stone wall, originally built for the academy, remains in front of two homes along South Clinton Avenue in Wenonah.



An Oldstone/Courier-Post



At left, a ball, medals and a sword are some of the items in Kathy MacGregor's collection of artifacts from the academy. Some are on shown above.



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ON THE WEB

www.wenonahnj.net - Borough of Wenonah

to secure funds for the construction of the Atlantic City Expressway in 1964. Parley died in 1971.

Graduating with the Class of 1927 was Charles H. Miles, who became a colonel in the Army and was stationed at Pearl Harbor, where the Japanese attacked on Dec. 7, 1941. In the Class of 1928 was J. Earl Wentzel, who went on to become a physician and was at one time the medical director of Underwood Memorial Hospital in Woodbury.

By the time Hinckle graduated, the school had begun to deteriorate and, in 1965, it was forced to close. It was torn down in 1967 — not because it

City of Burlington 2006 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Every Thursday - Riverfront Promenade - 7:30 PM
Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy!
2 blocks from the Riverline!

July 6, 2006	Linda Russell - Anthem of American songs in war and peace	
July 13, 2006	Bill Holcomb - Swing Band - including dancers	
July 20, 2006	dtmProject - Soft Jazz	
July 27, 2006	BCHS Blue Devil Music - State champion band repeat performance	
Aug. 3, 2006	Sugar Sand Ramblers - Songs and history of the N.J. Pine Barrens	
Aug. 10, 2006	S.J. Chorus of Sweet Adelines - As good as it gets	
Aug. 17, 2006	Tabernacle Men's Choir - Gospel - Burlingtonians	
Aug. 26, 2006**	Mark Reno (Elvis Impersonator)	
Sept. 4, 2006	Bill Holcomb Band - Labor Day Tradition and Finale	
Sept. 9, 2006***	Jazz Fest	

In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held at the Burlington Township Center for the Performing Arts

For further information call 609-386-4070

Festival of Lights *Wood Street Fair