

# Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

# Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 5 May 2004

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROCCO DOTO

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that this will be our last formal meeting before our June picnic and summer break.

Our program last month was great. For those of you who couldn't attend, it was a "round table" format of twelve "long time" residents who gave live historical recollections of early Wenonah experiences.

Member Frank Eggert stepped up to the plate and coordinated the discussions.

It is truly something to hear first hand accounts of Wenonah history. Nothing can replace live accounts of the past. We were lucky enough to have a volunteer videotape the entire discussion. This tape will surely be a part of the planned museum. We also recorded the audio separately and I am hoping to have my wife transcribe them over the summer. Depending how they come out we may bind them and sell them as a fundraiser.

Speaking of fundraisers I thought I would list all of the items that we have available for sale. Small Tote Bags (\$12.00), Large tote Bags (\$15.00), Buttons with the Wenonah Train Station pictured, Wenonah Realty Booklets circa 1906, (\$5.00), Princess Wenonah Banners (\$45.00), Princess Wenonah Garden Flags (\$15.00), with holder (\$20.00), Mugs with color photos of the Wenonah Train Station. (\$12.00 or 2/ \$20.00. Last but not least,

"Wenonah, growing up in the 40's & 50's". (\$6.00). This is a book of Poems written and donated by Patricia Wellingham-Jones (Clunn), who grew up in Wenonah and now lives in California. Her sister Betsy still lives in town. It's a refreshing book of poems, which no matter where and when you grew up you will appreciate. Anyone wishing to make a purchase can call me anytime at 415-1215.

### WHS OFFICERS 2004

<b>President:</b>	<b>Rocco Doto</b>
<b>Vice Pres.</b>	<b>Jack Sheppard Sr.</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Eileen Caraker</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Carol Wiltsee</b>
<b>Corr. Sec.</b>	<b>Betty MacLeod</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Vicki McCall</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Macy Pedersen</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Lucy Schulz</b>

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

The status of our Museum has had another delay with the court not scheduled to move into the new municipal building before mid-May. There is much to be done and it is difficult to do with the Court Clerks quarters still occupied so it will be impossible to have a Fourth of July opening. It does still mean that we need volunteers and lots of them. We have lots of memorabilia and files and Pictures etc to identify and catalogue.

It's also come to my attention that the condition of the building is getting worse. I was at a meeting on

Wednesday night and there weren't even trash bags for the kitchen. I will once again ask The Mayor and Council to allow the Historical Society to be the Curators of the whole building so that we can be sure our great Landmark is always looking good.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Rocco

### MAY PROGRAM

Charles (Chuck) Forsman, Bob Bevilqua and John Schad were the prime movers for the recreation of the "Tea House" in Wenonah Woods. They will be present to tell us about the idea, the research, the approval process and it's construction.

### HISTORICAL TIDBIT

By a special act of the State of New Jersey, the Mantua Land and Improvement Company was incorporated on February 21, 1871. The Company was authorized to erect buildings for residences as well as to sell and mortgage them and it could make regulations "to prevent the manufacturing or sale of intoxicating liquors" or "the carrying on of offensive trades."

Directors were Samuel A. Whitney, General William J. Sewell, George Wood and Horatio J. Mulford who helped formulate the resolution to organize the Company. Also elected were George S. Harris, John F. Starr, Edward Warne, Samuel Hopkins, Thomas P. Carpenter, Stephen Greene and Thomas Jones Yorke, president of the West Jersey Railroad.

200 East Mantua Avenue  
**Hannah B. Farr Residence**  
circa 1877

The following information was provided by Wally Farr, son of Edward and Bertha Farr, and grandson of Hannah Farr:

Hannah B. Farr was a daughter of a leading manufacturer and niece of C.M. Bailey, a financial magnate and oilcloth manufacturer of Winthrop, Maine.

Hannah Bailey Farr and her husband, Lincoln D. Farr, originally from Maine, was from a long line of Puritan and Quaker stock, including direct lineage tracing back to the early days of Plymouth Rock.

Hannah Bailey Farr together with her son Edward and his young family lived at 200 East Mantua Avenue on the S.E. Corner of

Marion and Mantua Avenues until Edward Farr deemed the house he was building at Princeton and Mantua Avenues, "Little Grange", complete enough during 1897 for his wife and children (a growing family needing more room) to leave the mother's home and move into his newly built stone residence just on the other side of the Presbyterian Church from Grandmother Hannah.

This move by Edward left the roomy residence to Hannah to enjoy and entertain her grandchildren as they came and went by train to their schools including MIT and Princeton University.

Hannah's son Edward eventually became a founding member of the Mantua Land and Improvement Co. that was instrumental in developing Wenonah. He was President of the family's business in Camden, the Farr and Bailey Manufacturing Co. that developed linoleum from its oilcloth business before merging with the Congoleum Company in the early 1920's, President of the Camden Safe Deposit and

Trust Company, served the Wenonah Board of Education for 25 years, President of the Wenonah Free Public Library and headed Cooper Hospital as its Manager (chairman) of the Board (Cooper was Edward's first

wife's family name. She died suddenly after they moved away from Hannah and into Little Grange).

The Farr's were a driving force in Wenonah very much involved in the social activities in the town and contributors of time, money and physical facilities, the most notable of which, our public library.

Today, the original Hannah B. Farr residence serves as the Wyckoff dental offices. It bears her name on a Historical Society plaque in front of the residence as testament and in memoriam to the grand matriarch of one of Wenonah's original and most volunteer oriented families.



## Wenonah 97 Years Ago 1907

The star entertainment given by the Jericho Military Guards, here, last evening was a grand success; about one hundred enjoyed the fun. Ice cream and dancing helped make the occasion delightful.

It is reported that Mr. Loomis and Mr. Genter will put up an ice cream plant here.

Mr. Wright, our new operator (telegraph) and ticket agent, thinks Wenonah is just the right place for a slim man to spend the summer.

FOR SALE one rooster and three Bantam hens - Charles Youst

Andrew H. Savage will sell his six weeks old bull to the butcher this week.

Oscar Redrow, who was hit by an electric train in Woodbury Saturday evening is still confined to his house.

Howard Vandergrift, who lights the gas lamps here was knocked down and rendered unconscious Friday night by a live wire. He was lighting the lamp at the main entrance to the park when the accident occurred. His left hand was burned nearly to the bone. The current had been turned off and the company offers a reward of \$50 for the identification of the party who turned the switch on.

The Wenonah Military Academy baseball team won their fourth straight victory by defeating the strong Villanova Academy team. The game was close from beginning to end.

The roof is nearly completed on R. H. Comey's mansion.

The cadets of the W.M.A. went on a practice march to Blackwood yesterday and to National Park today.

I am glad to see by Tuesday's paper that someone has interest enough in our park to bring its condition to the attention of the councilmen. It seems strange that they had not discovered it themselves. Isn't it a pity that one day in the year (4th of July) should be set aside to make the park so beautiful while the other three hundred and sixty-four days it looks like an abandoned beer garden. Why not take enough money from the 4th of July fund to keep the park in order, if the borough can't afford it. Citizen

Two rooms of the school were closed this morning on account of a case of scarlet fever.

Health Inspector Dawson, of Woodbury, was down this morning and fumigated the schoolrooms.

Theo. Geisel, of Woodbury, came near being run over at Middleton's crossing (there was a crossing at Cherry Street during this period) by an electric express Monday afternoon. He had just drove his laundry wagon on the track when he noticed the north bound coming a few feet away. With rare presence of mind he backed his horse off just as the train passed by. It was a narrow escape and Mr. Geisel has been quite nervous and unable to sleep since. This is the place that butcher Robinson's team had such a narrow escape.

A young man by the name of Slavin, who said he represented a cigar firm, called at Holeton's livery here and said he would be around several days. He had his team put up and fed and he got his supper and breakfast but nothing has been heard of his since. Mr. Holeton would like him to call and settle the bill.

George L. Dilks got lost last night while going through the park. The grass was so high he lost his way

Stephen Greene received 1,000 small perch yesterday which he will stock his beautiful lake here.

Come to the Spinsters Convention and see the old maids transformed into beautiful young maidens before your own eyes at Noblitt's Hall May 7. Benefit of the Bethel A.M.E. Church, Woodbury. Admission 25 cents

FOR SALE - Model F Ford Touring Car, with top, in first class condition. Address Box 67, Wenonah, NJ

The fountain has not started yet, and some people are anxious to have it in operation. (There was a public water fountain in town for horses and people donated by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The big mystery is where it was located.)

The Academy relay team covered themselves with glory Saturday by winning their race against Blight School, Philip Brooks School, Franklin and Marshall Academy, Hamilton Institute, Glen Mill School, Maplewood Academy, Perkiomen Academy and Wilmington Friends School. Winning in the fast time of 3:57. The school received a banner.

The man who was arrested here for threatening Adam Knight was caught while sitting at Mrs. Lashly's table (She ran the drug store at 1 East Mantua Avenue.) The fellow walked in and said he wanted his dinner.

The people of this village in general are glad that Edward Gibson who attacked Miss Dorothy Paris, here last week, landed in State Prison, but some seem to think they could get better satisfaction and feel more satisfied if they could get their hands on him.

Mr. Harry Genter is running a huckster wagon in Wenonah.

The entertainment given for the benefit of the M.E. Sunday School by the Vespers Sketch Club was not very well attended.

Notice- On account of death in my family I will not be able to run my huckster wagon here before next Wednesday. E. Sharp

Those interested in Fourth of July celebration met last evening in Noblitt's Hall, and good hustling committees were appointed to look after matters.



Stamp  
Here

Wenonah Historical Society  
PO Box 32  
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

---

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

---