

January 30, 201

When I moved back to Allendale in 1994 I new it was the perfect place to start a family. I grew up in Allendale and had very fond memories of my childhood but I was also lucky enough to have a grandmother who grew up in Allendale. My grandmother was born in Allendale in 1900 and spent her childhood roaming the same streets that I did. I have wonderful images of her in town playing on the streets, which would have been packed dirt, with her friends and swimming in the many ponds in town. I have such clear images of these things because my grandmother wrote Pat Wardell regularly and shared the stories of her childhood.

Most people would receive those letters that my grandmother wrote, enjoy reading them and then put them in a shoebox in the attic. Not Pat. Pat took every piece of historical information that she could get her hands on and shared it in newsletters and ultimately compiled them into books for all to read.

She really may be the most amazing person I have ever had the pleasure of working with personally. Perhaps I should rephrase that - she does all the work and I look with amazement at her accomplishments: Allendale Historical Society newsletters, 428 page "Allendale Background of a Borough" book, file cabinets of typed index cards with facts and genealogy of each of the original residents of Allendale, volumes of research on each of the houses in Allendale built before 1945, 1000's of files emailed to me on the genealogy of the original families of Bergen County and so much more.

In recent years the Allendale public school has added the history of the borough to their third grade curriculum. As part of the program I go to the school and show the third graders a slide show that Pat put together years ago of Allendale Now and Then. I have scanned the original slides so that the show can be projected from a lap top since it is getting harder to find a working slide projector. The show is always a hit and the children love the old pictures of Allendale. The third graders also have a Hot Spots project where they are each given a location in town to research. The main resource that the children use to find information about the history of their sties is the book that Pat published in 1994 "Allendale Background of a Borough". Without this book there would be almost no way for the children to discover anything of the history of their Hot Spot locations.

The third grade teachers and all of the present third grade students recently wrote thank you cards to Pat that are truly amazing. I hope that they can be shared with the community and ultimately delivered to Pat.

Thank you Pat for your many years of endless work and the efforts you have made to preserve and share our local history – you are truly a remarkable person!

Sincerely,
Joanne Hart

PS Pat your beautiful book has been scanned and will be available for all to purchase by the end of February 2013!!!