

For Pat Webb Wardell

January 2013

From the Concerned Citizens of Allendale, Inc. Our organization, a 501c3 non-profit, owns and manages the John Fell House.

The John Fell House was saved, in part, because of Pat Wardell's research, which helped us understand the historical importance of the house and property. It led us to discover John Fell's contributions to America's fight for independence and to realize that although a great patriot, he was an unsung hero of the American Revolution.

In addition, we learned of other owners of the house who were interesting in their own right and who hosted important figures in Allendale's history. One of those Pat wrote about was Colonel John Warner Allen, who stayed at the house while he surveyed the railroad for the Paterson and Ramapo Railroad Company. The borough of Allendale was named after him. Again, because of Pat's work, we learned so much more about Colonel Warner's bravery during the Civil War.

Pat's work gave us historical data we needed to fight the plan to demolish the house. Her research on the Joseph B. Taylor family, who bought the house in 1912, enabled our organization to determine that the house is eligible to be listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

Based on Pat Wardell's research, we contacted many state and national historical organizations, elected officials, and state officials with information on the history of the house. We were thrilled with their positive responses of support. So many of these organizations and people knew little or nothing of John Fell. By reading about the man and the house, they became supporters and worked with us on our plan to save the house.

Thank you, Pat!

The Concerned Citizens of Allendale hold several events and programs each year at the house. Having Pat Wardell's book, "Allendale: A Background of a Borough" enables us to share information on John Fell, the history of Allendale, and other residents of this historic house. We are still learning from the information in that book.

Pat Wardell's research has inspired a fictional account of John Fell's arrest, a video that brings to life his arrest, and much discussion and debate about how the house looked when John Fell and his family lived in what we learned from Pat was called New Barbados.

The visit of Allendale's third-grade students is always a highlight of our year. Students learn about John Fell, his life and family. A re-enactment of his arrest at the house leads to interesting discussions about history and how it relates to us all. The students bring so much to the discussion because they and their teachers use Pat's book in their research and studies.

In the introduction to her book, Pat wrote:

*I also hope some future historian will flesh out the history of the borough, especially the time period of the last fifty years or so. This wish comes packaged with a warning to would-be historians to realize that this very day is part of history. Don't repeat my mistake of not realizing that what occurred in my own lifetime was and would be "history," too! How I wish I'd kept a journal!*

*Pat Wardell, Allendale, NJ, July 1994*

We encourage students and adults alike to keep a journal and continue Pat's work.

In honor of Pat's contribution to Allendale's history, our Board of Directors will be discussing a resolution to honor Pat by naming the Local History Room in the John Fell House the Pat Wardell Local History Room.