

ALLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL OPENED SEPT., 1929

ALLENDALE NEW JERSEY

"The Place in Which to Live"

LLENDALE is the gateway to the Ramapo Hills, to the west is the Ramapo Valley, to the east is the beautiful Saddle River Valley and from our northern hills is obtained a splendid view of the skyscrapers of New York City, as well as the new Hudson River Bridge, which will be opened in 1932. The average elevation is 300 feet above sea level, most of its principal streets have been improved with curbs and walks. Water and gas mains run through practically every street in the town and its Road and Park system is unsurpassed by any municipality in northern New Jersey. Fire hydrants are located throughout the entire community, being spaced about 500 feet apart. All new buildings are erected in conformity with an excellent building code and the entire municipality is protected by a model Zoning Ordinance. There are fine modern stores for every need of the home. Its business center is a concrete roadway, 70 feet in width, which provides ample space for parking and is artistically lighted at night. There are three churches: Episcopal, Catholic and Methodist; excellent school facilities, a modern bank, Building and Loan Association, new Post Office, Public Library and unsurpassed recreational and bathing facilities. Its population exceeds 2,000, it is located 24 miles from New York City on the main line of the Érie Railroad and less than 20 miles from the metropolis by automobile. It has the Borough form of government and its administrative activities are directed by a progressive Mayor and Council.

Allendale is a town of homes for the busy city worker, free from industrial activity, in other words, a residential town.

The Indians

In the rush and busy activities of our day, it is hard to realize that our properties were once the hunting grounds and village sites of the Indians, erroneously referred to so often as savages. When the white men came to our shores they found the country in undisputed possession of the Indian. Where he came from is a subject of great interest and much specula-tion to the anthropologist. His almond eyes, straight black hair and high cheek bones are physical characteristics of the native of eastern Asia, yet a mighty ocean separated him from those whom he so closely resembled.

The aborigines of our locality came from Algonquin stock. Being very proud of their ancestry they usually referred to themselves as "Lenni Lenape"; meaning "original people." How populous they were is open to conjecture; some of the older authorities placing the number near ten thousand within the present state of New Jersey. This estimate is probably too high. Most students of the Indian agree that his number never exceeded 2,500 at any one time within the state. From an examination of old maps, there were probably more Indian villages in old Bergen County (which comprised a great deal more territory than the Bergen County of our day) than in any given area in the northern part of the state.

The Indians of our locality belonged to the Delaware nation and were subdivided into various tribes and many of the towns in our vicinity, with which you are familiar, derived their names from the tribe of that particular locality. Probably most of the "Redmen" who roamed, hunted and fished over the territory now known as Allendale belonged to the Pomp-

tons, Tappans and Hacki Saks. These Indians were not of a warlike nature, but tilled the soil, hunted and fished and proved of great assistance to the early settlers by teaching them many things about agriculture, as adapted to this land and climate. One of the most prominent chiefs who was noted for his friendship and help to the settlers was Oritani of the hack Fromhent Chiefs who was noted for his friendship and help to the settlers was Oritani of the Hacki Saks. He was a great leader of his people and the sale of many of the large tracts of land, east of the Hackensack River, to the white men were negotiated by him. He is said to have reached the century mark; living, presumably, from 1577 to 1677. There were, however, occasions when the Indians took to the warpath, these being prin-

cipally due to the encroachment of the whites. One of these early attacks occurred on

September 15, 1665, when our Indians crossed the Hudson in their canoes and commenced hostilities against the settlers at New York.

Our Indians were not of the nomadic type, which probably accounts for the large number of permanent camp sites in our vicinity. The writer has discovered several within our town limits; and from the number of spears and arrow points he has found, this locality was undoubtedly a favorite hunting ground for the Indian, while our brooks, which abounded with fish, provided him with some of his chief articles of food.

There is much that might be told about the Indians who roamed over our present Borough, but this sketch must, of necessity, be brief. There is one fact that should be related, however. In 1916 the site of a wampum factory was discovered just over the southwestern limits of our Borough and thousands of pieces of wampum were found. Wampum, or se-wan as the Indians called it was recognized as their medium of exchange and was valued by them for its beauty and art of manufacture. Wampum is a cylindrical tube about one-half inch in length and slightly thinner than a straw. The tubes or beads were made of the white, blue and purple parts of clam shells. The clam occurs only on our Atlantic seaboard and wampum has been found far inland, proving the extensiveness of its use. The white wampum had the lowest value, the blue was more valuable and the purple was highly prized. A few white settlers soon learned that with their modern tools they could manufacture wampum much faster than the Indian with his crude implements, with the result that they became very rich through trading wampum for the furs, skins, fats and grain of the Indian. After extensive search, it was found that this factory was owned by a Dutchman named Johannas Stolz about 1720. There are no descendants of this family in this locality and it is believed that the family accompanied the Indians when they left New Jersey, never to return. The manufacture of wampum was only abandoned in our locality in comparatively recent years for it was made in Franklin Township as late as 1860. The manufacture was conducted by white women, their product being sold to the Indians in the then far West.

"Geneology" of Allendale

Within a few years after the discovery of the Hudson River by Hendrick Hudson in 1609, the Dutch erected a fort on the southern end of Manhattan Island. By 1623 this fortification was surrounded by a thriving village, known as New Amsterdam, under the governorship of Peter Minuit. The Dutch not only included Manhattan in their province, but also western Long Island (Brooklyn) Staten Island and the Jersey shore. The colony continued to prosper and in 1634 the first Dutch settler crossed the Hudson and located in our present state, at what is now the Communipaw section. Settlement proceeded fairly rapid on our shore, due to the excellent agricultural conditions and while still under Dutch control, the colony was divided into four counties, of which Bergen was one. Some historians claim that Bergen County derived its name from the city of Bergen in Norway, but this is probably incorrect, for Bergen is a Dutch word meaning "the hills." It may be of interest in passing to note that only two of the present twenty-one counties of our state have names of Dutch origin; namely Bergen and Cape May, the latter being named after the famous Dutch navigator, Cornelius J. May.

Bergen county at that time extended from Constable Hook to the New York state line and from the Hackensack River to the Hudson River on the east. During the Governorship of Peter Stuyvesant the colonists requested a voice in the government but this, Stuyvesant, who was somewhat of a tyrant, would not grant. Meanwhile, the English set up a claim to the settlement, and in 1664 an English fleet appeared in the harbor and took possession. They changed the name to New York and continued to hold the colony as an English settlement until the Revolution, with the exception of a 15 months' period when the Dutch recaptured the colony in 1673.

On June 23, 1664, the Duke of York, Brother of King Charles II, then the ruling king of England, conveyed what is now the present state of New Jersey to Lord Berkely and Sir George Carteret. It was stipulated in the conveyance that the tract should be called Nove Cesarea or New Jersey, which name was given as a compliment to Sir George Carteret, for his defence of the Isle of Jersey during the English civil wars. With the continued growth of the colony the Royal Assembly redefined the lines of the various counties, which had been very roughly described originally, due to improper or total lack of surveys and uncertain legislative descriptions and the province was divided into nine counties of which Bergen was one. In this readjustment, the area of Bergen County was enlarged and comprised the present territory of Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties.

In 1837 Passaic County was set off from Bergen and in 1840 Hudson County was carved from our County. As early as 1693 the county was subdivided into townships for governmental purposes and from that time forward, as the necessity arose, new townships were formed. Our locality was included in Franklin Township, which is mentioned in documents as early as 1772. By legislative action, Franklin Township was officially established in 1798. It was named in honor of Gov. William Franklin, son of the great Benjamin Franklin, and last royal governor of New Jersey. Hohokus township was then set off from Franklin Township in 1849. Hohokus is an Indian word and means "cleft in the rocks." In 1885 Orvil Township was created by taking part of Hohokus and Washington Townships. It was named after Orvil Victor, a resident of Saddle River.

In compliance with a petition signed by many of our citizens and by act of the Legislature, the Borough of Allendale came into existence, on November 10, 1894, being set off from Orvil Township.

Early Days

Within a few years after the first settler crossed the Hudson to our shore, settlements sprang up at Paulus Hook (now Jersey City). Those of more venturesome spirit pressed further into the wilderness and established farm homesteads in practically all parts of the County. By 1700 several thrifty villages were in existence in the southern part of the county and sometime later the northern section boasted of several thriving villages. One of the most notable in our vicinity was Ringwood (then in Bergen County). This place was a thriving village and hive of industry long before the Revolution, due to valuable iron deposits. It was here that the London Company carried on an extensive iron business, finally under the able and successful management of Robert Erskine, after whom the town of that name, located near Ringwood, was named. Later he was commissioned Surveyor General of the Continental Army and attached to Washington's Staff. Many of his maps are now in possession of the New York Historical Society. Few realize the scope of the activity at this place in those early days. Over 600 men were employed in the mines and at the forges. Also the importance of the highway from Ringwood to Sloatsburg, on the Franklin Turnpike, is, today, little realized. As a military road during the Revolution, this highway has a very interesting history and I regret that space will not permit of more complete details.

Our early folks enjoyed a comparative life of peace and plenty, for our Indians, as related elsewhere, were peaceful and our farms very productive. The serenity of our section was not disturbed even during the several attempted raids of Northern Jersey by the warlike Iroquois Indians from the north, for these were successfully repulsed, due to the vigilance of our neighbors in Orange, Morris and Sussex Counties. Near the Goshen Courthouse stands a monument to these brave men. However, with the declaration of war between France and England, known as the French and Indian War (1753) the countryside became aroused. Every loyal Jerseyman was taught to hate the French and stand bravely for the British flag. In response to the call for volunteers, hundreds of Jerseymen responded. Those from our end of the state were under the command of Col. Peter Schuyler, who lived on the east bank of the Passaic River, near Belleville. One of the events deserving special mention is the massacre of 150 of our sons, who were ruthlessly slaughtered by the Indians, lying in ambush, on a Sunday morning in July, 1757. Sabbath Point, on Lake George, takes its commemorative name from this notable event.

In the earlier wars of our country various states had distinctive uniforms and New Jersey has always used the blue (World War excepted) and it may be interesting to note that as early as 1747 the soldiers New Jersey sent to Canada were equipped with blue coats and thereafter our men were familiarly known as the "Jersey Blues." In the diary of a Massachusetts soldier, who was in the Crown Point expedition, he gives a pathetic account of the surprise and massacre of the "Jersey Blues."

Dur early folks enjoyed another period of peace and home life and then the storm of the Revolution broke. The proximity of Bergen County to New York made it important territory during the Revolution. It was the gateway to New Jersey and the south and west and each party to the conflict realized its importance. Committees of Safety were organized and our local committee, which was organized on May 12, 1775, was headed by Judge John Fell, of Paramus. Party feeling ran high and many and bitter were the feuds among our people. Families were in some instances broken up and the ties that bound many together as friends were rudely torn asunder. A hundred years later the effects of this bitter feeling could still be seen in our locality.

From the best authorities we learn that the large majority of our people were loyal patriots, but it cannot be denied that our vicinity was inhabited by a great many Tories. In fact the Tories were so numerous that they organized themselves into a military organization, known as the 4th Battalion of New Jersey Volunteers, under the command of Lieut. Col. Abram Van Buskirk, of Saddle River. This command served throughout the war as loyal members of the British forces. Judge Fell was later taken prisoner by Van Buskirk and sent to New York to General Robertson, and an interesting story could be told of this incicent, if space permitted. There were no important battles fought within our county, but the entire territory was continually subjected to pillage of every description. The British occupied New York so long that there was a never ending predatory warfare in our territory. In addition to the British and Tory raids, we were repeatedly raided by outlaw bands, the most notorious of these being the gang of Claudius Smith, whose den was located in the Ramapo Mountains, near Suffern.

When the Continental Army was encamped at Hackensack and Paramus, Gen. Washington wrote to many of our prominent citizens regarding the terrible condition of our troops. He stated that his men were ill-armed, worse clad and almost without tents and blankets. In the New Jersey Gazette, under date of Dec. 21, 1777, we read the following: "I am afraid that while we are employed in furnishing the soldiers with clothing we forget the County of Bergen, which alone is sufficient to amply provide them with winter waistcoats and breeches, from the redundance and superfluity of certain woolen habits, which are at present supplied to no kind of use whatsoever. It is well known that the rural ladies in that part of New Jersey pride themselves on an incredible number of petticoats, which like house furniture, are displayed by way of ostentation for many years before they are decreed to invest the fair bodies of their owners. Till that time they are never worn, but neatly piled up on each side of an immense escritoire the top of which is decorated with a most capacious brass clasped Bible, seldom read. What I would then humbly propose to our superiors is, to make prize of these future female habiliments, and, after proper transformation, immediately apply them to screen from the inclemencies of the weather those gallant males who are now fighting for the liberties of their country.'

That we may know more about our local people in those thrilling times we quote from the diary of an officer who was at Paramus in 1777: "These towns are chiefly inhabited by Dutch people; their churches and dwelling houses are built of rough stone, one story high. There is a peculiar neatness in their dwellings, having an airy piazza, supported by pillars in front, and their kitchens in the form of wings on the ends. The land is remarkably level and the soil fertile; and, being generally advantageously cultivated, the people appear to enjoy ease and happy competency. The furniture in their houses is of the most ordinary kind, and such as might be supposed to accord with the fashions of the days of Queen Anne. They despise the superfluities of life and are ambitious to appear always neat and cleanly and never to complain of an empty purse."

One of the romantic incidents that happened near here during the war was the courtship and marriage of Aaron Burr and the Widow Provost. Mrs. Provost was the widow of a British officer in the Colonial wars. She occupied the house now known as the "Hermitage," on the Franklin Turnpike, at Hohokus and it was here that Lieut. Col. Aaron Burr made many visits from Washington Heights as well as when his command was stationed at Ramapough and Paramus. He married the charming widow on July 2, 1782.

It was just west of our locality, in the Wanaque Valley, that the insurrection of the New Jersey Brigade took place and the leaders executed. Among the important points of Revolutionary interest near our locality is the Dey Mansion, just acquired by the State for preservation and museum purposes. The Dey Mansion, once the home of Col. Theunis Dey, is located near Paterson. It is a stone house, built about 1740 and was the headquarters of Gen. Washington from July 1 to July 29, 1780. Col. Dey was commander of the Bergen County Militia and served during the entire war. Another is the Reformed Church at Paramus. Here Gen. Enoch Poor worshipped. The Colfax Mansion at Pompton is another. It was occupied by William Colfax, a Captain of Washington's Bodyguard. The homestead is still owned and occupied by the Colfax family.

With the successful termination of the Revolution the entire country was intensely interested in the framing of the Constitution and organization of the government, and as soon as these important matters had been attended to there was a national cry for better roads and our state was no exception. From 1800 to 1810 many turnpikes were chartered as toll roads and our own Franklin Turnpike was chartered in 1806. It ran from New Prospect (now Waldwick) to Ramapough (now Mahwah). During the earlier years there was a rough wood road running through here but it was not until the chartering of the highway that a regular road was built. Through Allendale it did not follow the exact route of the pike as we know it. It left the present travelway opposite Wilkie's Garage and headed to the east, joining the present road at the spot now occupied by Archer Hall. It then went west over the grounds of Mr. Joseph Taylor and joined the present road at the spot in front of Mr. Taylor's barn. This was a toll road from its construction to Civil War times, when the toll was discontinued The old Tollgate house still stands at the corner of the Turnpike and West Crescent Ave. Saddle River road was next to be opened. It ran along Cottage Place, then along the present lines of East Allendale Ave. to Rogers Lane and then across country to the east, joining the West Saddle River road at Eckert's Farm. Later it was changed to its present lines with the exception of that section between Cottage Place and the Pike, which was opened in the early seventies.

War again disturbed the peace and progress of our early folks. The War of 1812 had begun and the incident of most interest to us is probably the wonderful patriotic spirit displayed by Mrs. Valleau, of Saddle River. In sending her son Meng Valleau forth to the conflict she used the Spartan mother's injunction "Bring back your shield or be brought back upon it." Meng lost his life in battle and when word reached home of his death, his brother John was so fired by his mother's patriotic spirit, that he too went to the scene of battle. Later news arrived that Lieut. John Valleau had been killed in the storming of Queenstown Heights.

The next important event in our local history was the building of the railroad. The Erie ran south from upper York state to Suffern and thence to Piermont on the Hudson. The Paterson and Long Dock R. R. ran from Paterson to Jersey City. The Paterson and Ramapo Railroad was organized at this period, to connect the two systems, and surveys made about 1846 under the engineering direction of a Mr. Allen, after whom Allendale was named. Mr. Allen, while engaged in this work, resided with Mr. John Ackerman, who lived in the house now owned by Mr. Joseph Taylor on the Turnpike. Within a few years a narrow gauge railroad was built, consisting of two tracks, connecting Suffern with Paterson, which gave through service to New York.

As an inducement to place a station in our village, Mr. Mailinson, the father of our present highly esteemed citizens, John A. and William H. Mallinson, deeded sufficient land to the railroad company on the east side of the track for station purposes. The original station was built and served until 1870, when a new station was erected on the same site. About 1894 the station was moved to the west side of the track, where it is now located.

Allendale was well known in those early railroad days as a great shipping point for apples and strawberries. Many of the wooded tracts throughout our town today, were then fertile fields under intensive cultivation.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, most of the men from Allendale served with the 22nd N. J. Inf., under the leadership of Col. Cornelius Fornett. After the war, Allendale became the home of many prominent business and professional men and an old map lists the names of the following property owners: Henry Mallinson, John L. Yoemans, P. Van Houten, S. Roswell, A. G. Zabriskie, R. V. Ackerman, John A. Garrison, Joseph Mallinson, A. A. Quackenbush, Jos. A. Reading, Stephen Cable, J. J. Zabriskie, O. H. P. Archer, Albert J. A. Zabriskie, R. B. Cable, J. R. Southwick, Rev. J. E. Switzer, Peter G. Powell, A. Ackerman, R. Ackerson, J. Storms, C. A. Quackenbush, A. Smith, Wm. Christopher, G. A. Smith, H. Christopher, J. Pulis, Mrs. J. M. Brown and Daniel Anthony.

With the close of the war a great real estate boom swept over our state and Allendale was not overlooked. On March 16, 1868 John A. Garrison and Dolly his wife, deeded to Herman Talman and Marie, his wife, and Harvey Sherwood and Charity M., his wife, a tract of land containing 34 acres, for \$6,600.00, located on both sides of Park Ave. (then called Allendale Ave.) from First Street to what is now New Street. This tract was subdivided into plots, and included for park purposes what is now known as Memorial Park. This was set aside for use of the purchasers of plots in the development. The streets in this tract were named as follows: First, Second, Third and Fourth Streets, Allendale Ave. (now Park Ave.)Mallinson St., from First to Fourth Sts., (it was not cut through to Park Ave. as at present) and Anthony St. Second and Anthony Sts. are now known as Brookside Ave. The residence of Postmaster Critchley was one of the first houses to be erected on this development.

As an inducement to prospective home owners a group of citizens held a meeting on March 14, 1889, in the Home Amusement Club House in Saddle River, for the purpose of discussing the advisability of organizing a Building and Loan Association. John G. Esler acted as chairman and David Pickens served as secretary. It was decided at this meeting to organize, provided that subscriptions could be secured for 250 shares and that the organization should be known as the Orvil Co-operative Building and Loan Association. The following were appointed to solicit subscriptions: Walter E. Switzer, Albert L. Zabriskie, Andrew Esler, S. J. Van Blarcom, Wm. W. Packer and Charles L. Parigot. The following gentlemen were also appointed to draw up a Constitution and By-Laws: John G. Esler, David Pickens and Albert L. Zabriskie. Both of these committees were to report at a meeting to be held in the basement of Archer Hall on March 23, 1889, at 8 o'clock. At this meeting both committees reported and the records show a membership of 58 with a total subscription of 294 shares. On March 28, 1889, at a meeting held in the Home Amusement Club, the following were elected officers for one year, dating from a time to be afterwards arranged: President,

John G. Esler; Vice-President, Albert L. Zabriskie; Secretary, David Pickens and Treasurer Edward E. Powell. At a meeting held in Archer Hall on April 13, 1889, the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted and the Secretary was instructed to apply to the County Clerk for Charter of Incorporation. The following Trustees were elected at this meeting: David P. Davis, A. E. Ivers, Frank L. Van Tassell, Horace O. Doty, Charles L. Parigot, S. J. Van Blarcom, Wm. H. Mallinson, Dr. Charles Badeau, Walter E. Switzer, of Allendale; Stephen Hopper, Hohokus; Andrew Esler, Wm. W. Packer, Saddle River. At a meeting held in Yoeman's Hall on April 19, 1889, Frank J. Kimball was appointed Attorney. The first meeting for the payment of dues was held May 13, 1889 and on the tenth of June following, the first loan was sold to Elbert V. D. Rousseau, of Ramsey, N. J. at a gross premium of 2%. On May 8, 1895 J. W. De Yoe was appointed Attorney. On Sept. 11th of the same year Edward E. Powell resigned as Treasurer and Andrew Esler was appointed in his place and has served in that capacity ever since. The Secretary, David Pickens, having removed to Scranton, Pa., on March 12, 1894, William C. Talman was appointed to the Secretaryship and has served continuously to the present time. Following is the present Directorate: John H. Ackerman, 1896-1901 and 1922 to date; Charles H. Weeks, 1898; Henry C. Borger, 1906; John Yoemans, 1907; Garret H. Winters, 1909; Milton W. Packer, 1918; A. A. Lawrence, 1920; Frank Berdan, 1926; W. G. Z. Critchley, 1926; Ambrose K. Merrill, 1928; E. K. Burger, 1929; M. E. Higgins, 1929; Louis Jones, Director, 1900; President, 1926; George W. Parigot, Director 1901, Vice-Pres. 1926. Since July 1913 all meetings were held in the Fire House and in January 1926 the place of meeting was changed to the First National Bank Building. The name of the organization was changed to the Allendale Building and Loan Association on Nov. 1, 1926. Over a period of forty years the Association hashad only seven foreclosures, which is a remarkable record. During its entire existence only one pay meeting was not held; this on Feb. 13, 1899, due to a very severe snow storm, when the Secretary was the only member who succeeded in arriving at the place of meeting.

With the arrival of new folks the progressive citizens already saw the need of some modern improvements and a group of citizens organized the Allendale Improvement Association in 1887. Our former Mayor and highly esteemed fellow-townsman, Albert L. Zabriskie was one of the active workers in this group. Among their activities was the installation of 40 oil lamps throughout the town. Mort Southwick, who is still an active Fireman, was appointed Lamp Lighter. The first piece of macadam roadway as well as a flagstone walk was laid through the efforts of this organization. Both of these improvements were on the present Allendale Ave., between the railroad and the Turnpike. This same organization, with the support of many of the citizens of the village, made various attempts to improve conditions at the school, which was then a one room building. We were still under Township government and the surrounding villages made it very difficult, by their opposition, for Allendale to secure practically any additional funds for school purposes. Public opinion became aroused with the result that petitions were circulated with the object of forming a Borough and by act of the Legislature, our local school district was separated from Orvil Township dating from Nov. 10, 1894 and designated the Borough of Allendale.

The history of Allendale as a Borough, from 1894 to 1930 will appear in the second anniversary program of the Police Dept. It will also contain a historical sketch of the following organizations, etc.; Allendale Players, American Legion, Village Improvement Association, Bergen Guards, Franklin Club, Women's Club, Alpha Republican Club, Allendale Republican Club, Allendale Democratic Club, Fire Department, Police Department, Garden Club, Women's Christian Temperance Union, Boy Scouts, Archer M. E. Church, Epiphany Espicopal Church, Church of the Guardian Angel, Public School, Library, First National Bank, Allendale Argus, Our Parks, Crestwood Lake and Lake San Jacinto.

The writer would appreciate the privilege of inspecting old photographs and records of any of the above organizations.

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