The Ridgewood News

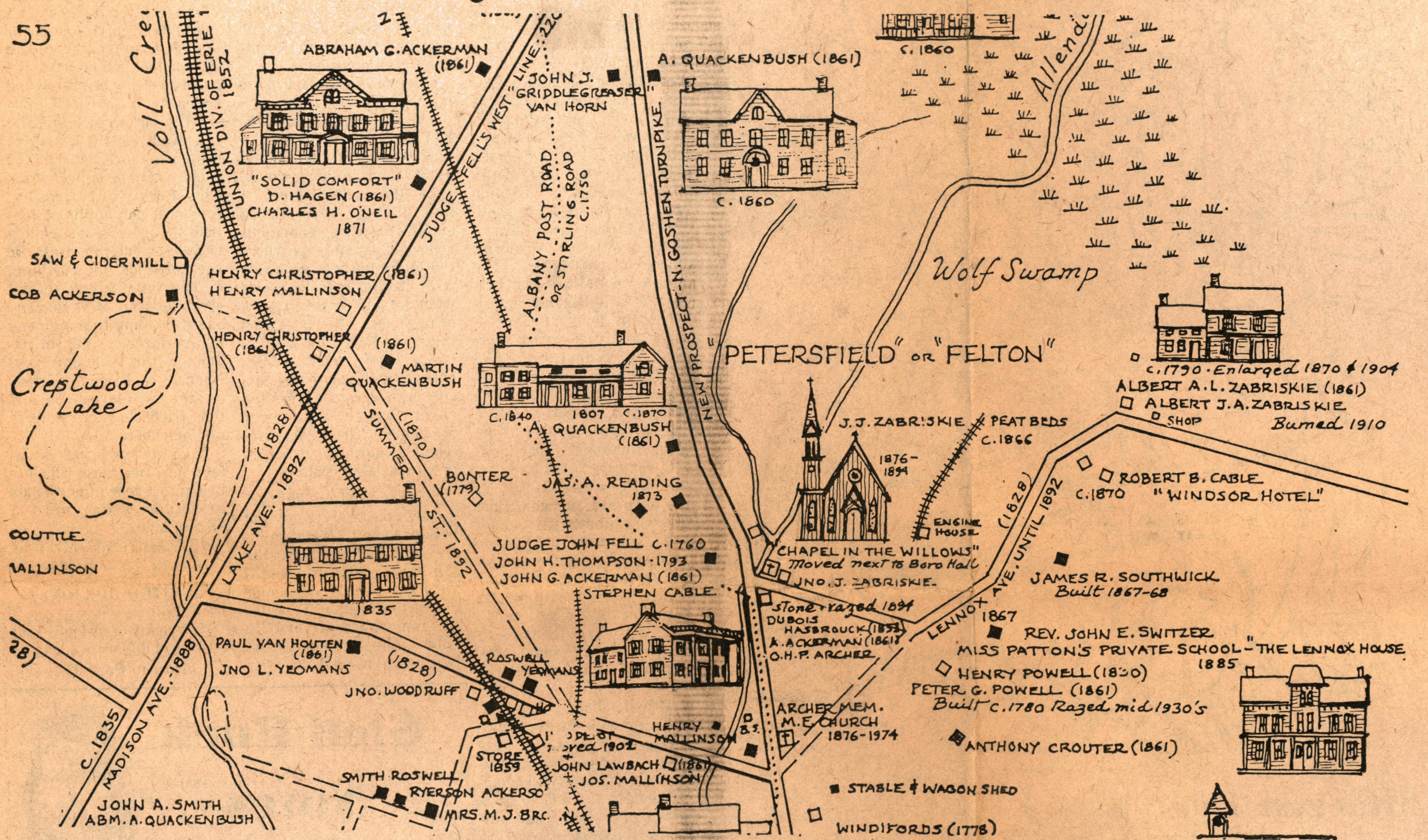
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Allendale's first school bells chimed in 1826



THIS MAP, DRAWN BY UPPER SADDLE RIVER HISTORIAN CLAIRE K. THOLL, SHOWS THE LOCATION OF EARLY ALLENDALE LANDMARKS.

By PATRICA A. WARDELL

ALLENDALE — In a borough which prides itself on quality education, the first known school building was constructed in 1826 on the northwest corner of Chestnut Street and Franklin Turnpike.

Called the "little old red schoolhouse," it was a one-story frame building 16 by 24 feet with desks arranged around the single room together with long, backless benches on which students sat from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The first teacher was Isaac Demarest. Later teachers in this school included Henry H. Vanderbeck and James Alfred Ackerman who first attended the school as a student and began teaching in the school about 1842.

In 1862 the building was moved to John Wilson's farm, where it was subsequently used as a granary.

Allendale's second schoolhouse was built in 1862 at a cost of \$2000. It was located a quarter of a mile from the Allendale Depot on the site of the present Allendale Municipal Building.

This school was 25 by 35 feet in dimension, was adorned with a belfry and blinds, and was surrounded by shade trees.

In 1860 the school trustees had purchased from Peter G. and Maria A. Powell for \$25 the plot on which the school was subsequently erected. In February of 1878 the enrollment had reached 87, with an average daily attendance of 62. In 1887 the school was enlarged at a cost of \$950.

In 1889, the trustees of school district No. 55 were instructed to divide the district, resulting in separate school districts for Waldwick and Allendale. Allendale residents, spurred by the subsequent decision to build a new school in the Waldwick district, petitioned for the formation of a separate borough.

On Nov. 10, 1894 proceedings for the incorporation of the borough of Allendale were filed and recorded.

In November 1896, after a new school had been erected, the old building was sold to Henry J. Appert for \$65 and he used it for storage on his onion and celery farm.

Nearly two years after the borough was formed

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attended and is probably solved.

"The Public Workds Dept. located two leaks (on July 31 and Aug. 1) and repaired them," said Fagerlund. "We have estimated the size of these leaks and fed a computer with this information to compute size and pressure and come out with gallons a day."

The computer's answer was a two- to three-million gallon loss a year through these leaks, according to Fagerlund. He added, 'W'e feel this is a major factor in the water loss but there still may be other leaks we can't

detect."

Tauber complained about the borough's scavenger service: "I put out my garbage before the first week of the month and it still has not

been picked up."

Borough Administrator James Mulcare said he had received six other complaints on the scavengers and after calling the company, "They have been very good about complying with

our requests."

Frank Leone has filed a report with state officials on what to do in case the borough is caught in an emergency. "This makes the borough eligible for state aid, civil defense or whatever is needed in an emergency," said Council President Edward Vanderbeck. He also said the money had not undergone a final approval.

Bells

(Continued from Page 5) from parts of Orvil, Ho-Ho-Kus, and Franklin broken for the new school building on the same site as the former school — the site of today's Allendale Municipal Building. This 1896, has been greatly altered, its second story pupils.

removed, and is, in fact, today's Municipal Building.

The new school was built by Stephen Van Blarcom at a cost of \$5500. Begun in June 1896, the school was formally opened with a dedication ceremony held on Dec. 18,

The original building was about 50 by 60 feet and contained two rooms downstairs and one large room, used as an auditorium, upstairs. There was a pump outdoors, and after parents complained about their children drinking from a "community dipper," all students were required to bring their own collapsible drinking cups to school. Graduation exercises were held first at the school, later at Archer Hall, and still later at the Allendale Fire House.

An early teacher at this school included Willard Alling, who was appointed principal in 1907, a position he held until his death on November 16, 1940.

A newspaper report published in June 1900 listed 7 graduates of this school, and noted that this represented Allendale's largest graduating class to date. In 1914 an addition to this school was built at a cost of \$24,000.

In November 1927, Edward G. Washburne was elected chairman of a citizen's committee formed to assist school authorities in choosing a site and floor plan for a new school. In January 1928 residents of Allendale voted almost 2 to 1 in favor of the selection of the "Anthony property" on Brookside Avenue as the Townships, ground was proposed site for the new school, and authorized the expenditure of \$165,000 to purchase land and build and equip the new school. The new Allendale Public School third school, constructed in (today's Brookside School) opened in 1929 with 225