

ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Vol. II

SEPTEMBER 1975

No. 1

NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 6, 1975, 8:30 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building.

PROGRAM: Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner Fetter will present a slide program about our fascinating Ho-Ho-Kus neighbor, The Hermitage. Mrs. Fetter is the current president of The Friends of the Hermitage.

NEWS AND VIEWS: Help wanted! Still desperately needed is a volunteer for the position of publicity chairman. Here's what's involved: At least four times a year, send press releases to local newspapers about upcoming society meetings; clip printed publicity and keep a scrapbook or file of such notices; attend four society board meetings a year. Please consider volunteering for this job--it's not overly demanding, yet it is an extremely important job in our society. To volunteer or for more information, call Pat Wardell, 327-0605.

IN MEMORIAM: It is with deep regret that we record the passing of two of our charter members:

On April 23 of Miss Ethel V. Borger of Allendale, a retired schoolteacher;

On May 23 of Raymond M. Scholz of Allendale, a former borough councilman.

Both Miss Borger and Mr. Scholz were of families connected with the very early history of the borough, and both were enthusiastic members of our society. Their presence is sorely missed.

*Early Residents of the Allendale Area.....Smith Roswell,
Erie Station Agent at Allendale*

Under the date of November 8, 1848, Martha Ann Zabriskie wrote in her diary: "The new railroad line is now in operation from Ramapo, Patterson and New York (called the Jersey Blue)." Actually, the Paterson and Ramapo Railroad had begun running regular trains between Paterson and Suffern, through Allendale, on November 1st, 1848. Shortly after the opening of the railroad, a station had been erected at Allendale. In September 1852, the New York and Erie Railroad leased the Paterson and Ramapo line, and according to a New York and Erie Railroad Time Table published to take effect December 20, 1852, a total of twelve stops per day were made at Allendale--6 eastbound and 6 westbound.

On December 2, 1857, the Paterson Daily Guardian reported that near Allendale "a number of cords of wood, belonging to the New York and Erie Co., were consumed by fire Saturday. It is supposed to have originated from the sparks of a locomotive of the way train going west." It was about this year that the railroad discontinued train stops at the Allendale station.

By April 1859, the station at Allendale was in a state of disrepair. The Paterson Daily Guardian reported that "at the present time the old station house is deserted, and is fast going to ruin." By July, however, the Bergen County Journal could write, "The Depot at Allendale having by neglect been allowed to run down, the Erie Company finally suspended stoppage at the station some two years ago. A new spirit has recently invaded that section and the people are determined to have a depot. Mr. Mallinson has lately fitted up a little station, which he keeps faithfully and in good order. The cars now stop there again as formerly."

In mid-August the Paterson Guardian announced that a new freight house was planned for Allendale: "...Such a building is much needed there. The cost, it is computed, will be about \$150 which will be raised by passing the hat for the contributions of the neighboring farmers and others interested."

The burst of interest in a new depot for Allendale was probably directly due to the fact that the Erie, in the spring of 1859, had appointed a station agent (reputedly Allendale's first) for the Allendale station. His name was Smith Roswell.

In June of 1859, the Guardian had written of its past reports about the Allendale station: "In several preceding communications the designed revival of Allendale as a regular station of the E.R.R. has been mentioned. This has at last been effected, Mr. Smith Roswell, a gentleman well acquainted with railroad affairs, having been appointed agent. . . . The farm produce from a large area of country will now be sent to market via Allendale."

And by August the Guardian could report, "At Allendale everything seems in a flourishing condition. Large quantities of fruit continue to be sent from this station every night. The agent keeps a store at the place, and deserves success in the undertaking. On the opposite side of the road a place is also open for the sale of refreshments, and things generally on every hand betoken life and activity."

At the close of the decade, in December 1859, the Guardian reported: "The importance of a station at this place has been abundantly demonstrated since last spring when the Railroad appointed Mr. Roswell agent. And though of course the receipts have dwindled down considerably since the fruit season, passengers and freight yet daily take advantage of the accommodations Allendale affords. The station house, like another elegant building in its vicinity, is a gravel-walled structure, and seems just the right sort of thing in a region where wood is scarce, buck dear, and 'sand and cobblestones' plentiful."

Smith Roswell, the new station agent at Allendale, had been born on February 26, 1827 at La Grange, Dutchess County, New York. On July 3rd, 1853, he had married Ellen McKinsey Bull, and when he came to Allendale in 1859, he brought with him his wife and two small children, Sarah Ellen Roswell, aged 4 (who later married

Joseph Steele), and Charles Smith Roswell, aged 3 (who later married Emma Langwith, and who became Mayor of Allendale from 1906 to 1909).

In the years that followed, four additional children were born to Smith Roswell and his wife Ellen: Edgar L. Roswell, Ingham I. Roswell, William Roswell, and Eva M. Roswell.

Smith Roswell continued as station agent and in addition, he filled the position of Postmaster for about fifteen years as well as operating a grocery store during at least two periods, once in 1859, and again in 1878. In March 1874, the Bergen County Democrat reported that "Smith Roswell is amongst the oldest station agents on the Erie. Smith has filled the position in Allendale since the first station was built, and gives general satisfaction."

In July 1878, the Hackensack Republican wrote, "Agent Roswell, realizing the wants of the village, has opened a first-class grocery store. Smith is an old hand at the business, and will soon compel other dealers in the vicinity to put down prices or put up shutters."

In 1896, two years after Allendale was incorporated as a borough, Smith Roswell was appointed to the Board of Health. Smith and Ellen Roswell celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, with four of their children present for the festivities, in Allendale on July 4, 1903. Smith Roswell died at the age of 83 on September 24, 1910.

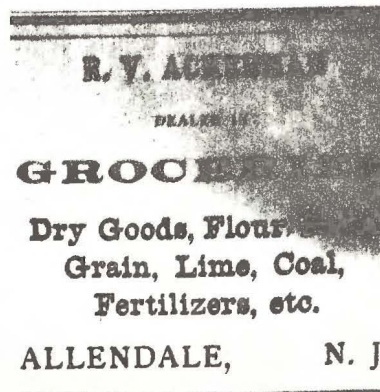
---Pat Wardell

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Do It Yourself---1857 Version.....From the Paterson Weekly Guardian,
December 8, 1857

A SIMPLE FLY AND ANT TRAP--Mr. John R. Smith, of Hackensack, N.J., has furnished us with a simple composition which he says is much used in England as a sort of trap to catch flies, ants, and other insects. The composition is spread upon paper, and sold by the pedlars at a penny a sheet. Mr. Smith has used these sheets, made by himself, around the trunks of trees, plants, &c., the varnish side out, to prevent the ascent of insects. It is made thus: Melt rosin in any vessel over the fire, and while soft add to it enough sweet oil, or lamp oil, to make it, when cold, of the consistency of molasses. This, spread upon writing paper with a brush, will not dry in a long time, and is so sticky as to hold fast the legs of any insects attracted to it, or accidentally coming in contact. It may be placed around the house, the pantry, or elsewhere, and will soon attract and hold fair ants and other vermin. It is also used on table legs, and the edges of shelves, to prevent the ascent of ants, &c. One of the highest recommendations of this preparation over the ordinary fly paper is that it is not poisonous.

--American Agriculturist.



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line of Horse Feed, Chicken Feed, etc.

Advertisements from the
Archer Church Souvenir,
1894.



From Our Mailbox

March 9, 1975

"The article in the September (1974) bulletin--about the Peat Industry--is interesting. The experience of Mr. Sterling--Oct. 6, 1887--was previous to the Apperts in Allendale. A New York State man named Barth purchased, probably from Zabriskie, (1) the small house on East Allendale Avenue (third from Thonus property and directly across from what was then the Asten Boarding House) and also (2) 7 acres of farmland and raised onions on the farming acreage. When Barth sold it, my father bought the house and farmland as it adjoined the acreage Dad bought from DeYoe, and it also afforded an entrance off East Allendale Avenue to the farm."

---Ella M. Appert

November 29, 1974

(Notes on the map, "The Early Days of Allendale")

"The pond on the northern boundary is the de Wyckoff Pond. Joseph de Wyckoff owned the estate and built the pond.

Christopher house on Hillside Avenue--the one furthest north was built by John Christopher of New York before 1791. His daughter Lavina married my great, great grandfather Wm. G. Hopper.

J. W. Allen was one of the engineers who laid out the Paterson and Ramapo R.R.

Date of Franklin Turnpike is doubtful. It must have been named when William Franklin was governor and he was arrested in 1776. The Demarest Inn (later Mt. Prospect) was authorized in 1756. In 1797 Dobbin and Trustin of Goshen were given stage coach franchise, New York to Goshen.

Winter, one of the prominent families. House at 62 Elm Street, Garret Hopper Winter ca. 1866 married Charity Ann Dater, dau. of Abraham Dater of Saddle River. Property on Elm belonged to another daughter, Jemima, whom we used to visit when I was a youngster. The sons of this Winter ran the hardware store for many years."

---John Y. Dater

April 1975

"The newsletters are extremely interesting. Especially the one about the Appert farm. That was my playground for many years and the brook leading down along the turnpike was where we used to get our pickerel belly bait to capture the big ones over in Mallinson's Pond before it became the swimming pool."

---John G. Hubbard

March 10, 1975

"My interest in the Fells (John and Peter Fell--see February 1975 newsletter) began when I noted that Peter Fell signed Aaron Burr's marriage contract to Theodosia on July 6, 1782."

---Alec J. Hurst,
Hermitage Historian

Adventures in and around Allendale

From the Paterson Weekly Guardian, March 23, 1858:

A HAUL OF SNAKES AT SADDLE RIVER--Mr. John Ackerman, of the above named place was at work in his field, when he felt some thing move against his leg, and looking down saw a large black snake which he killed; and about a rock near by was some hundred together, basking in the sun. Mr. Ackerman made way with no less than fifty-three. The rest escaped before he could finish the lot. One of them measured twelve feet. This was a war of extermination.

From the Bergen County Democrat, October 22, 1875:

RAMSEYS--Jacob J. Young, while riding in corn, scotched and killed with his dog "Doc" fifteen snakes. One was five feet in length, the others three feet long. They were racers with white chins, with the exception of three, which were milk snakes. Mr. Young shot in the mountains a snake with two heads, one on each end. He vouches to this, although it seems incredible. After he shot off one of the heads it retrogated and got out of the way.

*From the Paterson Weekly Press, April 1, 1886
(reprinted from the New York Morning Journal):*

ALLENDALE, N.J. March 28.--Martha Devine, a maiden-lady, who resides with her nephew, Theodore M. Cook, has suddenly become a curiosity and startled the whole neighborhood. For several years Miss Devine has been an invalid. On Friday night her relatives were called to her bedside to bid her farewell, as she was evidently dying. Shortly after 10 o'clock she closed her eyes and ceased to breathe. A looking-glass was held over her mouth, but no indications of respiration appeared upon it. She was accordingly prepared for burial. Undertaker Mitchell noticed that although the dead woman's form was rigid, with the exception of her extremities, the body remained warm. Without notifying the friends he placed her in a coffin without putting her on ice. For twenty hours she lay in the box and was viewed by several neighbors and mourned by all her friends. Her relatives even opened and read her will, thinking that she might make some request regarding her funeral. Shortly after 6 o'clock last evening, while the family were at supper, Mr. Cook heard a noise in the parlor where his aunt's remains were lying. He was horror-stricken to find her sitting up with her head and shoulders partly out of the glass covering over the coffin. She had been in a trance. After getting out of the box she walked and appeared perfectly well. She relates many curious things that she saw while in the trance.

Advertisements from the Archer Church Souvenir, 1894



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New Members

We welcome the following new members:

- Mrs. Gail Anderson of Allendale
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Doolittle of Allendale
- Mr. John W. Doty of Ridgewood
- Mr. Jack Granowitz of Allendale
- Mr. and Mrs. Indrikis M. Kaneps of Allendale
- Mr. and Mrs. Donald Landzettel of Allendale
- Mr. and Mrs. Allan C. Morgan of Allendale
- Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Tappan of Allendale
- Mrs. Sarah M. Winans of Ocean Grove

Accessions

We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts to the Society's collection:

A bundle of New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad Company Way Bills of Merchandise of various dates c.1886 from various places (a few from Allendale) to Mahwah station, by Frank Doolittle.

Old Methodist church hymnals, by Gail Anderson.

Photograph of Allendale Fire Truck No. 1, in front of the old Allendale Fire House, by Mr. Leon Kornhoff.

A November 11th, 1954 edition of The Allendale Picture Press, by Mrs. Gil Job.

More Appreciation...

For loaning items to be photographed or copied for the collection:

Mrs. Dot Shuit (Old postcard views of Allendale)

Mrs. George Stein (slides taken of aftermath of liquor store bombing and hotel fire)

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Allendale Historical Society
P.O. Box 294, Allendale, N.J. 07401

Membership Categories:	(Annual Dues)
Family Membership.....	\$5.00
Regular (Individual) Membership.....	\$3.00
Junior Membership (under 18).....	\$1.00

Dues are not required, but are voluntary, for those members over 65.

Allendale History and Heritage is published four times a year in September, November, February, and April, and is mailed to members of the Allendale Historical Society.

Editor: Mrs. Walter M. Wardell, Jr. (Pat)

Max Scholz,
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*Advertisements
from The Allendale
Methodist Herald,
1903.*