

# ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Vol. II

APRIL 1976

No. 4

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 3, 1976, 8:30 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building.  
Annual meeting--election of officers.

PROGRAM: To be announced.

NEWS AND VIEWS: Our thanks and appreciation to this year's Nominating Committee: Vi Huse, Gail Landzettel, and Peggy Miller. They have prepared the following slate of officers and chairmen for 1976-1977:

- President: Pat Wardell
- Vice President: Jack Knapp
- Treasurer: Wilfred Paulsen
- Secretary: Mary Dolan
- Trustees: Ina Hamilton  
Peggy Haviland  
3rd Candidate needed
- Librarian-Curator: Marion Schwach
- Newsletter Editor: Pat Wardell
- Hospitality: Candidate needed
- Publicity: Candidate needed

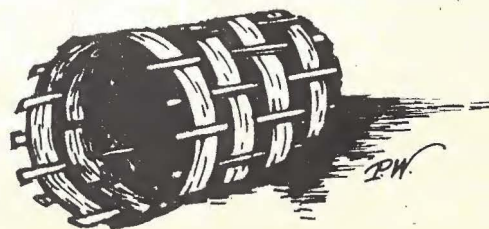
Additional nominations for any office may be made from the floor, and election of officers will take place, at our annual meeting on May 3.

Our new slide program, "Allendale's Changing Scene," was presented by John Cebak to Boy Scout Troop 59 on April 9.

We are planning to participate in the Old Fashioned Country Fair planned for October 16th (raindate October 17) sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club. We hope to have a booth or table to promote our society, with displays and exhibits of photographs, postcards, etc. from our collection--and, of course,

membership applications abounding! We are also considering conducting an old fashioned "Nickelodeon" featuring old Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and Laurel and Hardy two-reelers. We have access to films and projector, but we will need a good-sized tent or other type of enclosure. If any members have ideas and suggestions to offer, don't be shy! We need a chairman to coordinate our Fair activities, and we will need volunteers to help us man our booth and our 5¢ matinees--if you'd be willing to help, call Pat Wardell, 327-0605. Mark your calendars now, and set aside October 16th from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Come to Crestwood Park and support Allendale's many non-profit organizations by spending a fun-filled day at Allendale's Old Fashioned Country Fair!

IN MEMORIAM: It is with deep regret that we record the passing of one of our members, Mrs. Bert Sneden of Florida, formerly of Allendale, on April 10.



*Old Allendale Strawberry Basket*



III. Allendale's First Real Estate Boom--the 1870's.

The demise of the strawberry in Allendale and neighboring towns came when the strawberry farmer realized that his farm acreage was more valuable to him when it was divided and sold as homesites.

City folks were discovering the pleasures of northern Bergen County's serene countryside and the determining factor in decisions to purchase "country" property often was the railroad, which offered simple and speedy access to the city. Comfortable traveling, too, for passenger railway cars, with their plush seats and sumptuous accommodations, far outranked the bumpy, jousting, and uncomfortable ride afforded by wagon or stagecoach. And so Allendale's commuters were born.

By March of 1870 a dozen trains each way stopped at Allendale's station every weekday. Clustered around the depot were two stores, a lumberyard, a meat market, and an apothecary. Allendale's industry was located east of the depot, at the intersection of Franklin Turnpike and Allendale Avenue, where Henry and Joseph Mallinson operated a carriage and wheelwright shop in conjunction with a blacksmith shop.

In 1868 John A. Garrison and his wife Dolly had sold to Herman Tallman and Harvey Sherwood a tract of land containing 34 acres located on both sides of what is now called Park Avenue (then called Allendale Avenue) from First Street to what is now New Street. Sherwood and Tallman subdivided this tract into building plots and established the park now known as Memorial Park on the corner of Park and Brookside Avenues.

Daniel Anthony, a retired ship builder, had bought a sizeable estate southwest of the depot and had cleared it of brambles and underwood. Approximately 100 acres had been divided into 120 building lots along two streets, Anthony Street (present Brookside Avenue) and Allendale Avenue. Mr. Anthony offered these lots for sale at between \$50 and \$100 per lot according to lot size.

While the 1870's saw the influx of many permanent year-round residents, the decade also brought the wealthy summer residents who were to have tremendous influence on Allendale's future.

O.H.P. Archer, a former Vice President of the Erie Railroad, made Allendale his summer home as early as 1869 and he continued to summer here until his death in 1899. Those who followed Archer to Allendale, most making Allendale their summer residences, included Robert S. Berdell, a former Erie President; Stephen Cable, Berdell's brother-in-law and Ferry Master with the Erie; Robert B. Cable, Superintendent with the Erie; James A. Reading, son-in-law of Stephen Cable and Superintendent with the U.S. Sub-Treasury in New York; Charles Henry O'Neill, ex-Mayor of Jersey City; William Pitt Shearman, Commissioner of New York City and Treasurer of the Erie Railroad; and James Reynolds Southwick, wholesale dealer in butter, eggs, and cheese in New York City.

What such a popular vacation haven needed was a hotel, thought Herman Tallman, and so he decided to build one. The Bergen County Democrat announced, in its issue of January 21, 1870, "Mr. H. Tallman is about erecting a hotel at Allendale. The foundation is laid and



the building is soon to be put through. The hotel will front on the main road, cutting off the view of the station from Mr. Ackerman's store. A number of lots have been disposed of in this neighborhood, and it is supposed that building will be lively hereabout in Spring."

On October 19, 1870 the "Allendale House" was opened with a gala party given by its proprietor, James A. DeBaun, the son-in-law of Herman Tallman. Wooley's Paterson Band played from the balcony of the hotel during the afternoon, and in the evening Acker and Lee's Band played for 75 couples in the ballroom of the hotel. The Paterson Daily Guardian published this recommendation of the new hotel:

"Adjacent to the depot, it is of easy access to the cars, is splendidly furnished throughout, and will compare favorably with the best hotels in the country. The town of Allendale exhibited a marked improvement since this place has been established, and the wayfaring man, when he lands from the train, will find every requisite accommodation." This hotel or others in Allendale were subsequently run by Cornelius Coe (1873), William Folly (1875), and Henry Van Vorst (1879), but none of the hotels prospered for long, probably because many of Allendale's residents objected to them. In 1876, The Paterson Weekly Press wrote that "Allendale has three hotel buildings, but not hotels, and not a drop of whiskey in the place."

In 1885 John D. Naugle purchased the old hotel property and in 1887 The Hackensack Republican reported that "the old hotel building will soon be a thing of the past. Mr. Naugle's property will be greatly improved by its removal. The building was originally erected by Herman Tallman of Monsey for a hotel, but was never a success as the inhabitants of Allendale always opposed a hotel in their midst."

Abraham G. Ackerman had opened up a store in 1869, possibly succeeding Morris S. Ackerman. By 1873 the store was being run by Abraham's son, Richard V. Ackerman. The business was a general store, handling groceries, hay, feed, coal, boots, and shoes. In January of 1876 R.V. Ackerman put up a street lamp in front of his store-- a fine improvement, one would think, but the skeptical Bergen County Democrat considered it a frivolous addition: "It will take for a while, but like Ridgewood, Hohokus, and other lights throughout the county, the people will soon sicken and tire of them."

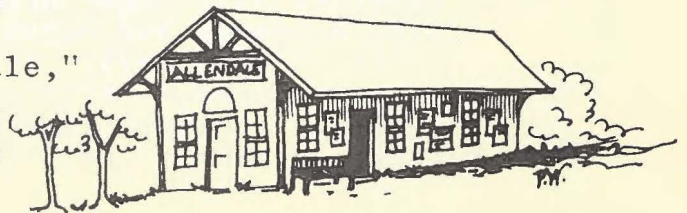
A. Sherwood served as Allendale's butcher sometime before 1873, but by November of that year he had gone out of business and Bogert Westervelt, formerly of Englewood, had started his wholesale and retail butcher trade in Allendale.

Cornelius Coe, along with running the Allendale House (the hotel) opened a livery stable in March of 1874 and announced that he had every facility for stabling horses and carrying passengers to any part of the county.

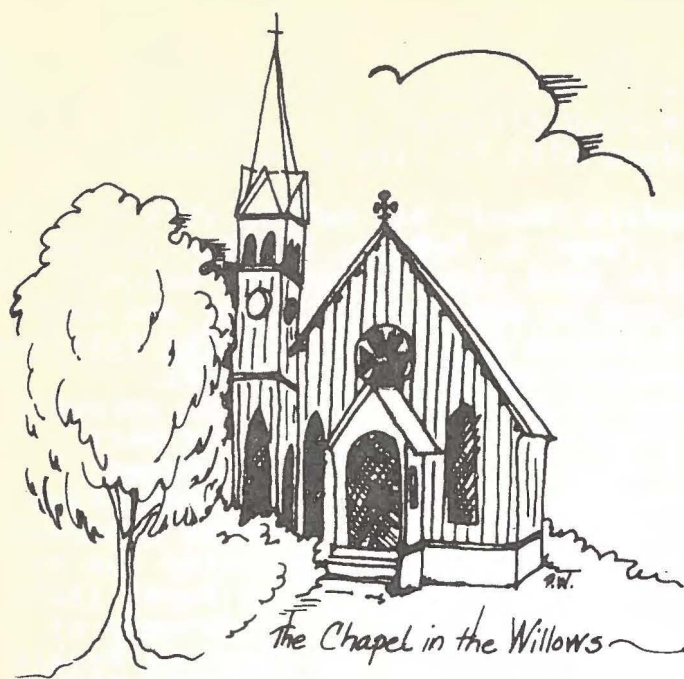
Of course, it wasn't all work and no play in Allendale: on June 25, 1870, what may have been Allendale's first baseball team, the Pioneers of Allendale, played the Excelsior Baseball Club of Ridgewood on the grounds of the Ridgewood Academy. The Paterson Guardian reported the results of the four-inning, two-hour game:

Excelsiors 40, Pioneers 3! "Allendale," reported the Guardian with masterful understatement, "did not come up to the mark as she ought to have done."

In 1870 a new Railroad Station







was erected on a site on the east side of the railroad tracks. The building was moved to its present location on the west side of the tracks in 1902.

On January 7, 1872 Mrs. Stephen Cable and her daughter, Mrs. James Reading, organized a Sunday school in their homes, marking the beginnings of a movement that culminated in the formation of the Episcopal Mission that became today's Church of the Epiphany. By the summer of 1873, the school had grown to 70 people and larger quarters were sought. A barn belonging to John J. Zabriskie was fitted up and used as a school room and chapel; this accommodation was named "Hope Chapel." In 1874 Mrs. Cable gave

\$50 and a plot of ground opposite her home as a building site for a permanent chapel. The first service in the newly built "Chapel in the Willows," near the intersection of Cottage Place and Franklin Turnpike, was held on June 11, 1876.

In November of 1873, the Erie Company opened up a telegraph office in the railroad station at Allendale. But the railroad did not bring improvement alone; it also brought tragedy in the form of railroad accidents. In February 1874 Alfred Ackerman, out for a ride in his buggy, attempted to cross the Erie track at Allendale and was struck by a freight train. The horse escaped, the buggy was reduced to splinters, and the hapless Mr. Ackerman was thrown onto the cow catcher. To save him from falling off under the wheels, a fireman on the speeding train sprang forward and grasped and held Mr. Ackerman until the train was stopped at the Hohokus depot. Bruised and battered, Ackerman nonetheless escaped with his life. Eight years later, in July 1882, Anne J. Van Horn, daughter of John "Griddlegreaser" Van Horn, was not as fortunate. After visiting in Hohokus, she and her sisters crossed the railroad track and Miss Van Horn was struck by a train and almost instantly killed.

In 1875, Oliver Hazard Perry Archer, tired of making the trip to Waldwick's Methodist Church, decided to erect a church more convenient for him--in fact, right across the street from his summer home. On June 8, 1876, the chapel at the northeast corner of the intersection of Allendale Avenue and Franklin Turnpike was dedicated for church services. Earlier, on February 17th, the partially finished chapel had been opened for Sunday school classes. Until 1886, when the Rev. W. R. George was assigned to Archer Memorial Church as its first full-time minister, Archer Church shared a circuit-riding preacher with other area Methodist churches.

Alfred Ackerman had begun teaching in Allendale's public school (District No. 55) in 1875. By November of 1878, 76 students were enrolled in the school, with an average daily attendance of 54. Subjects taught included reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, U.S. history, grammar, spelling, and elocution. School entertainments



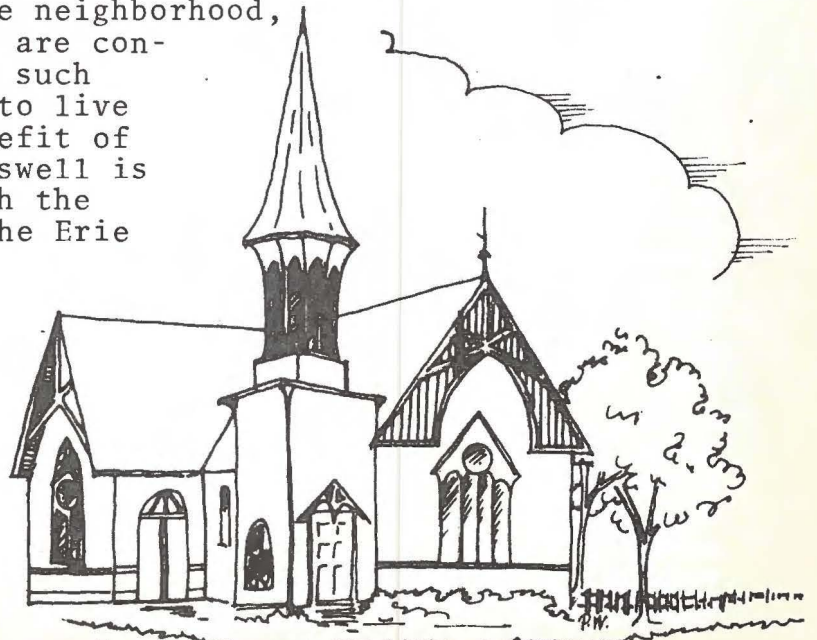
were frequently held; one in December 1878 featured Joseph Christopher, Fred Doolittle, and Bertie Anthony in a skit titled "The Upstart Clerk." Dannie Anthony and Charlie Quackenbush recited poems and told stories, Maude Doolittle described "a terrible murder, in which the victim was a mosquito," and Frank and Willie Beckley enacted "A Scene in a Courtroom."

By July 25, 1878, local newspapers were reporting that the Powell, Southwick, and Cable houses were filled with summer boarders, and nearly every other house in Allendale entertained one or more guests. Social columns announced that John N. Abbott, passenger agent of the Erie, was stopping at Peter G. Powell's, and O.H.P. Archer's daughter and her friends had organized a Literary Society and were planning an entertainment. "Allendale," said The Bergen County Democrat, "is a healthy location and has a future."

On September 26, 1873 The Bergen County Democrat had reported: "Allendale--This suburban village on the Erie has lately been making strides in advance, and there seems to be a desire with the people to keep pace with their progressive neighbors. A number of prominent personages have their summer cottages at Allendale. . . .To add to the improvement of the place, a beautiful new depot has been erected. . . .The place has one drawback: a few old hunkers, who hold onto their landed estates, and still cling to the foggy notions of their ancestors. Progress with them is obsolete, and such a thing as keeping up with the age is lost in a miserly selfishness of continuing in the old rut of masterly inactivity, and an opposition to anything of an enterprising spirit. . . ."

From the vantage point of over a hundred years, one feels compelled to sympathize with the "few old hunkers"--the onslaught of progress must have been, at times, a bitter pill to swallow. It is easy to guess at the indignation most old-timers must have felt at the influx of the wealthy summer residents. Some of the indignation is apparent in such newspaper items as this one from The Bergen County Democrat of September 7, 1877: "The Erie magnates are quartered here. The night express stops at the order of John Abbott, the ticket man, and the whole neighborhood, especially the old settlers, are convulsed that a man could have such authority. Everybody wants to live in Allendale to have the benefit of express stoppages. Smith Roswell is delighted to shake hands with the General Passenger Agent of the Erie every morning. Smith's salary hasn't been raised. Dan Anthony is the only live man in town, and doesn't mix in with the gilt-edge."

(Next issue: Allendale--  
The Newport of Bergen  
County, 1880-1894.)



Archer Chapel  
c. 1894



Allendale's First Real Estate Boom--the 1870's.

Sources:

History Committee of Archer Memorial Methodist Church, History of Archer Memorial Methodist Church, 1876-1966.

Godfrey Pittis, History of the Chapel of the Epiphany.

United States Federal Census, Bergen County, Hohokus Township, 1860 and 1870.

A. H. Walker, Atlas of Bergen County, 1776-1876.

W.P.A., Federal Writer's Project, Allendale and Its Fire Fighters.

Newspapers: Paterson Weekly Guardian; Paterson Daily Guardian; Paterson Weekly Press; Bergen Index; Hackensack Republican; Bergen County Democrat.

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FROM MALLINSON'S POND TO CRESTWOOD PARK

*From The Ramsey Journal, November 24, 1927:* What is believed to be the first venture of its kind in this section of Northern New Jersey is the newly completed open-air ice skating rink to be officially opened in Allendale this winter. Crestwood Rink, as it is to be known, is a four acre body of water located a few hundred feet west of Crescent Avenue where that street forms the termination of West Allendale Avenue. The rink itself is located almost in the center of the homesite development of the same name and was built by the Smith-Van Houten combination. Tomorrow afternoon Chris Smith and Stephen Van Houten will supervise the flooding of the rink, which lies in a basin below the knoll on which the Van Houten home stands. . . .Chris Smith, in speaking of Crestwood Rink says: ". . .At a great expense we have taken a small, shallow pond and converted it into a big, clean body of water, free from mud, weeds and stones. The rink when flooded covers an area of four acres and the entire bed of this lagoon is covered with a solid foot of clear, clean sand. The dam which we have built to hold the water at any desired level is two hundred feet long, permitting the passage of motor cars with perfect safety and ease. The gate and spillway installed here gives us a maximum depth of nine feet of water if we desire, and was built so that we can regulate this depth at any one of three points lower. Every thought has been given to safety and convenience and the rink itself is big enough to accommodate regular official ice hockey contests." Smith and Van Houten, it is understood, will open the rink with the advent of freezing weather, on the club plan. . . .

*From The Ramsey Journal, May 17, 1928:* The Crestwood Club, Ltd., located in Crestwood Park, Allendale, N.J. announces the opening of its out-door swimming pool located at West Allendale and Crescent Avenues, opposite the Recreation Park, situated in ideal surroundings. This pool has many advantages to offer the sport loving public. It is ample in area, comprising some four acres, surrounded by trees and a sloping beach of pure sand, free from stones, beginning at a minimum depth and gradually increasing to ten feet, affording safety for the kiddies and plenty of water for the experts who indulge in high diving and other exhibits of skill. This fine body of water is held by a strongly constructed and artistic dam with a sufficient spillway to ensure a constant supply of absolutely pure water, which is guaranteed further by the installation of the latest improved chlorinating plant which keeps the water in a constant state of purity at all times. Fed by mountain streams the water comes to the spot as nature intended it should, absolutely pure, and this condition is maintained at all times. The pleasure of boating may be enjoyed by those so inclined and bath houses may be hired. Club membership may be secured by the payment of a small fee.



*Mallinson's Pond, 1927*

*Crestwood Lake, about 1928*





### New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Mrs. Franklin Day of Allendale  
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Greenway of Mahwah  
Diane Fragala of Allendale  
Mr. and Mrs. Dean P. Haviland of Allendale  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley A. Haviland of Red Bank, N.J.  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray V. Jones of Allendale  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Rich of Allendale

### Accessions

We gratefully acknowledge the following gifts to the society's collections:

Photographs; postcards; newspaper clippings; program of a pageant, "Independence," presented under the auspices of the Holiday Observers on July 5, 1926; parody newspaper--"The Evening Meal," published at Allendale February 2, 1916; two newspapers--The Allendale Argus, edition of May 29, 1925, and edition of June 5, 1925; poster/broadside advertising Mallinson's Cider Mill; all donated by Russell Mallinson.

Blueprints for addition to Brookside School, 1950, donated by Miss A. Marian Strangfeld.

Photograph of the Allendale Ambulance Corps, May 30, 1956, donated by Mrs. Leonard Baum.

Booklet, "This is Allendale," published by the Allendale Chamber of Commerce in 1951; programs for spring concerts performed by the Allendale Band at the school auditorium, May 1954 and April 1955; program booklet for band concert performed by the Ramsey High School Band, April 1955; booklet, "The Times of Citizens First"; program for commencement exercises, Allendale Public School, June 1956; campaign button--"I'm for George Dean" (elected Mayor of Allendale in 1958); blueprints for a house on Knollton Road designed by William Dewsnap, architect, 1951; swimming badges for Allendale Municipal Pool, 1953, 1956; souvenir glasses, 50th anniversaries, Allendale Fire Department (1960) and Mahwah Fire Department (1964); all donated by William L. Jenkins.

### More Appreciation...

To Mrs. Leonard Baum, for loaning photographs of the Allendale Police in 1943, to be copied for the society's collection.

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We know that many of our readers have fond memories of happy summer (and winter?) days spent at Crestwood Lake. Did you have enough nerve to dive off the highest tower in the middle of the lake? Did you watch swimming and diving competitions there in the 30's? Did you stand on long lines waiting your turn to go down the slide in the 50's? How many times did you, swallowing your pride, have to climb down the ladder of the high diving tower? Did you dance on the dance pavilion in the 40's? We invite our readers to jot down their memories of good times at Crestwood Lake, send them to this editor or to the Society, and we'll publish the responses received in our September newsletter.

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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.

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Editor: Pat Wardell

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*Memberships to the Society (which include subscriptions to Allendale History and Heritage) make wonderful gifts and help to support the Society.*