



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 6, 1976, 8:30 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building.

PROGRAM: Reginald McMahon, Trustee of the Bergen County Historical Society and Chairman of that society's historical marker program, will present a slide talk about historic sites and markers in Bergen County.

NEWS AND VIEWS: We wish to thank the Ladies who worked at the society's table at the Old Fashioned Country Fair on October 16. They included Jean Stein, Marion Schwack, Mary Dolan, Dora Hudson, and Pat Wardell. We are grateful also to Eva Schmitt and The Country Shop for the loan of sawhorses and plywood used for our table. We realized a profit of \$44.50

from the sale of back issues of our newsletter and batik-dyed decorated eggs.

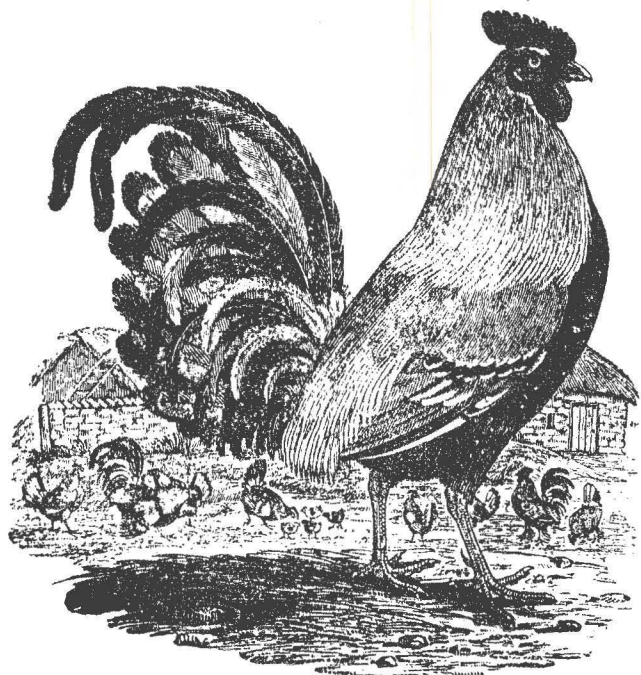
In response to several requests, we will have more batik eggs available for sale (for the benefit of the society) at our December meeting, including some that have been blown out and are suitable for hanging as Christmas ornaments.

ALLENDALE: BACKGROUND OF A BOROUGH.....by Pat Wardell

IV. Allendale--The Newport of Bergen County--1880 to 1894. (Continued from September issue)

In 1884 Garret Hopper Winter formed a partnership with Gus Leamon and opened up a new grocery store in Allendale. Later, when this partnership dissolved in about 1894, a new partnership was formed and the general store operated under the name of Winter and Christopher. This partnership, too, soon dissolved and Garret Winter, along with his son John W. Winter, continued to run the store. When John's sons, Herb and Bill Winter, took over the store in 1916, it became known as Winter Brothers. In 1948 the brothers discontinued their line of groceries and expanded their hardware line. The store continued as a hardware store until just recently, when the business was discontinued.

In 1892 Henry J. Appert bought 30 acres of land at the corner of Franklin Turnpike and Cottage Place on the site of the old peat bog. He cleared the acreage and planted onions as his first principal crop. Later, lettuce and celery as well as onions were grown here and the farm was called the "Allendale Produce Gardens"--probably more commonly known to Allendale residents as "the celery farm." Appert added more acreage and he and his son Arthur continued the farm until 1912 when Arthur Appert bought out his father's interest and became sole owner.

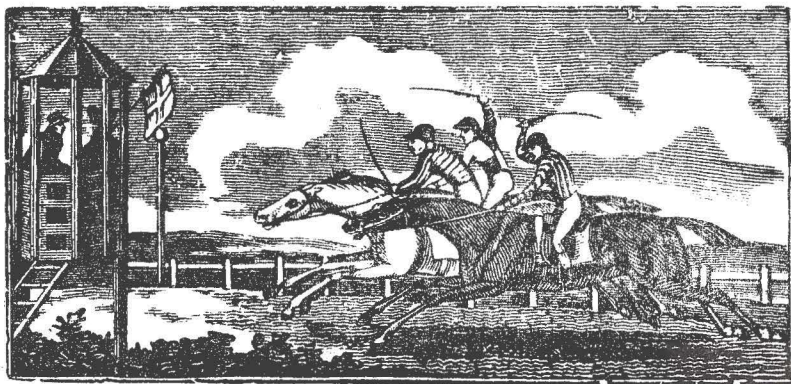


Chickens were widely raised in Allendale, and as early as 1884 innovations in hatching techniques were being used in Allendale, provoking much interest among residents and the local press, which reported in February "The chicken factory is exciting great interest. Three incubators are in operation. One is hatching 100 eggs by electricity. There is some prejudice against the productions. One man says he 'will not eat any of them un-natural chickens.'" On May 14, 1885, the Hackensack Republican stated "Allendale is now a famous section for poultry fanciers. Among the most noted pens are those of George C. Sterling, in the construction of whose yards time and expense have been a secondary consideration. A new comer to the place is Frank Van Tassell, fresh from Harlem; he is a breeder of

high class poultry and has just finished a very complete chicken house which is in every way unsurpassed--it is commodious, well-lighted and thoroughly ventilated. One good point Mr. Van Tassell had in view was the interior finish, making it absolutely vermin-proof--but this idea was original with our friend Mr. Doty, he being a most able authority on matters of this kind. Mr. Doty is about to add some new improvements for his young stock, consisting of large runs made only with sash and blinds, giving light and ventilation as may be desired."

On December 21, 1883 the Bergen County Democrat announced that "O. H. P. Archer will erect a public hall for the benefit of the village." Archer's Hall, built on Franklin Turnpike near the Archer Chapel, was formally opened in August of 1884 with a program at which addresses by the Reverends King and Collins and John Van Dervoort of Paterson, were given. Annie Roy, Nellie Archer, and Lizzie Mallinson provided vocal musical entertainment.

The gentlemen of Allendale took great pride in their horses, and it was far from uncommon to see a pair of buggies being raced along the main streets of town. Some proud owners entered their horses in races held at tracks in Ho-Ho-Kus and Ramsey. In August 1885, Mart Demarest won a race at Ho-Ho-Kus track with Albemarle, who trotted in three minutes without a skip or break. Albemarle belonged to Everett Powell, who proudly boasted that he had a standing offer of \$500 for the trotter. Powell had another horse, Billy, about whom Powell's niece, Ethel Jackson, told the following story: "Billy was a spirited three-year-old who was sometimes hard to handle, even by Uncle Everett. He had a hard mouth and wanted to go all the time. When he managed to get the bit in his teeth one Saturday night when Uncle Everett was driving



to see his best girl in Ramsey, there was no stopping him. That's how Billy wound up with a silver tube in his chest. He refused to swerve from an approaching rig in Ramsey, almost in front of Ferncroft. Billy took several inches of buggy shaft in his chest. Neighbors rushed out with blankets to cover the stricken horse. A well-intended marshall said, 'Better put him out of his misery,' but a young doctor protested strenuously. "Give me a chance. I think I can save him.' The volunteer was Dr. Charles DeYoe, uncle of Edgar DeYoe, later a well-known Ramsey attorney. Men hauled the horse with clumsy gentleness into the Ferncroft barn. DeYoe applied medications and inserted the silver tube. Daily for weeks he dressed Billy's wound. The restive trotter recovered and his homecoming to Allendale was a parade of triumph, but a slow march, for the horse was still wobbly. He had to be helped into the Powell stable. Billy lived to a ripe old age, an unrepentant speedster. The scar on his chest never stopped him from taking the bit in his teeth."

William Pitt Shearman also took great pride in his horses and on August 3, 1888 the Bergen County Democrat reported, "The handsome carriage and horses of Mr. W. P. Shearman can be seen every evening on Broadway. Mr. Shearman's horses, Allan and Dale, cannot be matched for beauty in the county." A few years later, in the summer of 1892, Charles H. O'Neill was proudly driving a T cart behind his fine new team, Grover and Adlai.

In February of 1892 the Village Improvement Association renamed all of the major streets in Allendale, an improvement that was questioned by some: the Hackensack Republican on February 11, 1892 reported that "for a few weeks the inhabitants will carry a directory in their pockets in order to locate their neighbors." From the station to Saddle River became Allendale Avenue (and remains Allendale Avenue today); from Charlie Merrill's to the Franklin Turnpike as far as the old gate house became Lake Avenue (West Crescent Avenue today); from the station to Christopher's mill became Park Avenue (Park Avenue today); the new street from Park Avenue to Lydecker's Mill became Brook Street (Brookside Avenue today); from Franklin Turnpike to Park Avenue became Orchard Street (West Orchard Street today); the old Franklin Turnpike became Broadway (Franklin Turnpike today); from Powell's to the Epiphany Chapel was named Chapel Place (Cottage Place today); Freetrade Avenue became Maple Street (Maple Street today); and from Allendale Avenue to Lake Avenue was Summer Street (Myrtle Avenue today). The only street, according to the Republican, which retained its original name was Love Lane, which ran from the old Franklin Turnpike to G. B. Smith's.

In December 1892 the Village Improvement Association held its annual meeting in Archer Hall and re-elected the following officers: Albert L. Zabriskie, President; George Cook, Vice President; David Pickens, Secretary; and William H. Mallinson, Treasurer. An entertainment committee was set up and the following members were appointed to serve on it: Arthur DeZ. Patton, John B. Barney, William W. Merrill, Garret H. Winter, and Edward E. Powell. By April 1895, after the incorporation of the Borough and the establishment of its governing body, the original Village Improvement Association had disbanded. (In 1903, a ladies' Village Improvement Association was established. This organization lasted until 1917 and during its active years its interests included work for the Allendale Library, upkeep of the borough park, care and planting of flowers in the plaza, improvements to the Erie station, and arrangements for the annual collection of garbage.)

Allendale, from the 1850's until just after 1880, had to rely for her local news on the Hackensack-based newspapers (including the Bergen County Democrat, the Bergen County Journal, the Bergen Index, and the Hackensack Republican) as well as the Paterson-based papers (including the Paterson Daily Guardian, the Paterson Weekly Guardian, and the Paterson Weekly Press). In Saddle River, in June 1882, Alfred P. Smith began publishing a small (6" x 8") monthly newspaper called The Landscape, which printed many Allendale items. Smith was a remarkable individual who wrote with an animated hometown interest, admirable style, and marvelous humor. He had been a correspondent for the Paterson Guardian in 1859 and the editors of the Guardian considered his letters and articles to be straightforward, honest, and clear. In September of 1880, an abcess had completely severed the bone in his thigh, and under the care of Dr. Neer, of Park Ridge, he made a slow recovery. For eight months he remained immobile in bed, and upon his recovery, although crippled, he began publication of The Landscape.

The Ramsey Journal was begun about 1891 by John Y. Dater, and featured Allendale news in each week's publication. In October 1894, the Allendale and Waldwick Times was established, but after only seven weeks publication ceased. The Ramsey Journal, on December 28, 1894, commented, "The Allendale Sun is our latest arrival. How long will it shine?"

Not too long, it seemed, for less than two months later, on February 8, 1895, the Ramsey Journal announced that William S. Harper, editor of the Suffern, N.Y. Independent, had bought the Ridgewood Bee and the Allendale Sun.

Early in the 1890's there was much speculation over a proposed new railroad, to be called the Saddle River Valley Railroad, which was to cross the Franklin Turnpike near today's intersection of Pittis Avenue and the Turnpike. The Hackensack Republican on May 12, 1892 commented that the proposed route would run right in front of Squire Ivers's dooryard and speculated that "when it is built the Squire will have a chute from his bed to the station." Walter Switzer, engaged in real estate sales at that time, predicted that the railroad would surely cause in this section of the county "a boom such as was never known before." Perhaps it would have, but we will never know, for the railroad was never constructed.

The public school in Allendale, built in 1862, had an enrollment by 1878 of 87 with an average daily attendance of 62. By 1887, the school was so overcrowded that during the year it was enlarged at a cost of \$950.

In 1885 Miss Patton's Boarding and Day School opened at 100 East Allendale Avenue in the home leased from Rev. J. E. Switzer. It is not known exactly how long the school flourished in Allendale, but it enjoyed at least seven years' existence, for on June 10, 1892, the Bergen County Democrat reported on its commencement exercises, and on September 29 of that year, the Ramsey Journal commented on the beginning of the school's seventh year.

The first telephone exchange in the area was opened in Paterson on December 24, 1879 with eleven subscribers. In the summer of 1895 a 10-line switchboard connecting fifteen telephones with one trunk line to Paterson was installed in H. A. Tice's drug store in Ridgewood to



serve Allendale, Waldwick, and Ramsey as well as Ridgewood's Central District (comprised of Ridgewood, Midland Park, Glen Rock, and Ho-Ho-Kus.) By 1896 this 10-line board had to be replaced by a 100-line switchboard. The first Ridgewood Central Office telephone directory was issued in September 1897, and one Allendale telephone was listed: a pay station in the store of R. V. Ackerman. On August 13, 1903, the Hackensack Republican reported that "there are two public telephones in town now," but neglected to inform us where the second phone was located!

Progress was advancing upon the little village, and soon after the addition to the school in 1887, speculation over a new district school to be built in Orvil Township began to grow. Allendale's residents were soon to become involved in a school battle that eventually culminated in the town's withdrawal from Orvil Township and its separate incorporation as the Borough of Allendale.

What really annoyed Allendale residents was the fact that the proposed new school for Orvil Township was to be built in what is today Waldwick. Allendale's citizens wanted the school right here where it had always been, within easy walking distance for their children.

In 1894 the state amended a law permitting communities to withdraw from larger Townships and incorporate as boroughs, making such action easier and more feasible for those communities. This amendment resulted in what has been called "an epidemic of Borough-itis," with at least 25 boroughs being formed in Bergen County in 1894 alone.

On September 17, 1894, a petition was filed at the courthouse in Hackensack calling for a special election to propose the question of the formation of a borough named "The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale." (It was to be 6½ years--until April 1903--before the borough's corporate name was changed from "The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale" to simply "The Borough of Allendale.") In accordance with the law, the petition was signed by the owners of at least 10% of the taxable property within the boundaries of the proposed borough, which encompassed parts of Orvil, Hohokus, and Franklin Townships. Signers from Orvil Township were R. V. Ackerman, O. H. P. Archer, J. A. Mallinson, William H. Mallinson, and Louise Doty. The lone signer from Franklin Township was Louis Rossner. Signers from Hohokus Township were R. V. Ackerman, Peter D. Rapelje, Garret G. Smith, John A. Mallinson, and William H. Mallinson.

On October 16, James Van Valen, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Bergen County, ordered that a special election be held at Archer Hall in Allendale on November 8, 1894 to enable qualified residents to vote for or against the incorporation of the borough. Judge Van Valen appointed Alfred E. Ivers Clerk of the Election, and William H. Mallinson and Joseph H. Ware Inspectors of the Election.

On October 20, 1894 Joseph H. Ware, Election Inspector, posted 10 notices of the forthcoming election. The notices were posted in the following recorded locations: (1) One on a post in the Post Office at Allendale; (2) One on a wall in the gentlemen's waiting room in the depot at Allendale; (3) One on a post in R. V. Ackerman's grocery store in Allendale; (4) One on the public bulletin board on the southwest corner of Allendale Avenue and Franklin Turnpike in Allendale; (5) One on the gate post in front of the school house in Allendale; (6) One on a guide post on the northwest corner of Allendale Avenue and Chapel Street at Allendale; (7) One on the door (outside) of Zabriskie's blacksmith shop on Allendale Avenue in Allendale; (8) One on the outside of the door at Bullis's blacksmith shop on the Franklin Turnpike near Allendale [this

appears to be an error in transcription and should probably read "Pullis's blacksmith shop"--P.A.W.]; (9) One on the front of Burtis's Feed Mill on the road leading from Allendale to Wyckoff; and (10) One on a telegraph pole situated on the road leading from Allendale to Wyckoff near the barn of R. V. Ackerman.

On November 8, Alfred Ivers, William Mallinson, and Joseph Ware signed the following report and certificate of election: "The whole number of ballots was one hundred and eleven of which one hundred were for incorporation and eleven votes were cast against incorporation, giving a majority of eighty-nine votes for incorporation."

On November 10, 1894, proceedings for the incorporation of the Borough of Allendale were filed and recorded by Samuel Taylor, clerk of the county, and Allendale's citizens began preparations for a speedy primary election to precede the election of Mayor, Councilmen, and other Borough Officials, which was scheduled by the county to be held at Archer Hall on December 4, 1894.

(Next issue: The Early Years of the Borough.)

Sources:

Allendale History and Heritage, Vol. I, No. 1 (September 1974).

Citizens Semi-Centennial Association, Ridgewood Past and Present.

Incorporation papers, Borough of Allendale, on file at the Bergen County Courthouse, Hackensack.

Westervelt, History of Bergen County, New Jersey.

Newspapers: Bergen County Democrat, Hackensack Republican, Paterson Daily Guardian, Paterson Weekly Press, Ramsey Journal, Ridgewood Herald News.

Twenty Years Ago in Allendale...

Starting at 3 a.m. on October 7, 1956, New Jersey Bell Telephone introduced "modern high speed dialing for the Ramsey-Mahwah-Allendale-Saddle River area." In Allendale, telephone numbers changed from "Allendale 1" to "DAvis 7" exchanges.

In September 1956 if you had \$14,990 you could buy a 5 bedroom, 2½ story frame house on a 100 x 200 plot in Allendale.

That same month, a new model home on Allen Street, built by Colburn and Di Pippo, was opened for inspection. "Modern luxury split ranch homes" with three bedrooms and two ceramic tiled baths were advertised for sale from \$23,990.

The Allendale Fireman's picnic that September was held indoors at the firehouse because of uncooperative weather. The rain didn't really dampen the fun, but there was one fireman injured "in the line of duty." While preparing clam chowder at the firehouse the night before the picnic, one of the volunteer firemen was scalded by boiling water and was taken to Valley Hospital for treatment. True to volunteer spirit, although suffering second-degree burns on his chest, he returned to duty and continued his cooking chores until he could be relieved.

Early in June of 1956 Councilman Wilfred Paulsen announced that the municipal swimming pool would open on Saturday, June 23. Season rates were up 25¢ from the previous year; the 1956 season fee would be \$1.75 through age 17, and \$2.75 for adults.

This house was probably built before or shortly after the marriage of Paul Van Houten and Rebecca Demarest on May 30, 1835 at Ponds Church (Oakland). Paul, the son of John and Margaret Mickler Van Houten, was born on March 14, 1795. Rebecca was born in 1807, the daughter of James (or Jacobus) and Letty Cooper Demarest.

Paul and Rebecca evidently came to live in this house as newlyweds. They had one daughter, Margaret, who married, in 1855, John L. Yeomans. Paul, Rebecca, their daughter Margaret, and Paul's mother, Margaret Mickler Van Houten, were living in this house when the 1850 Federal census for Hohokus Township was taken. By the time of the 1860 census, just Paul and Rebecca are listed as living in the house, for by 1860 Margaret Mickler Van Houten probably had died, and Margaret had married John L. Yeomans and was living in Wyckoff. Paul Van Houten is listed in the 1860 census as a farmer, and the value of his real estate is listed as \$7000. The house appears on the 1861 Hopkins-Corey Map, marked "P. Van Houten."

John L. and Margaret Van Houten Yeomans moved from Wyckoff to the Allendale house about 1867. In March of 1870 Paul Van Houten died, and the 1870 census reflects the fact that his widow, Rebecca, was living with her daughter and son-in-law at what is now 209 West Allendale Avenue. John L. Yeomans is listed in this 1870 census as a farmer with real estate valued at \$15,000. The house is shown, but not labelled, on the 1876 Walker's Atlas map. The house is marked "J. L. Yeomans" on an 1887 driving chart. John L. Yeomans died on February 2, 1888.

Over 65 years later, in July 1955, Richard and Margaret Beyer of Clifton purchased the house from John J. Yeomans, executor of the last will and testament of Sarah M. Yeomans. Mr. and Mrs. Beyer had considerable restoration work done on the lovely old house, and ten years later, in 1965, they sold it to the present owners, John and Susan Lyons.

Adventures In and Around Allendale

From The Paterson Daily Guardian, October 12, 1857:

RAMSEY'S, Oct. 9, 1857. Messrs. Editors: Among the numerous communications from the County of Bergen, we seldom see our place represented in the category. There is a lack somewhere, not for the want of material to write about, for not a day rolls over our heads without some incidents: transpire, worth noting down.

An extensive business is done at this station in the way of freight; besides it is a central place, where many people resort. John Y. Dater has one of the best stores in the county, where you can be supplied with all the necessaries requisite to satisfy the wants of the people.

Here, too, David W. Valentine, something less than seven foot in stature, with a heart as big as himself, regales the appetites of the thirsty, with every variety of beverages, which are to be found in his model Hotel. To cap the whole, we have an obliging Agent, prompt and attentive to his calling, ever ready to render assistance, and to give all information that may be required in his business.

We have a good many noble souls among us, not omitting J. May and J. Dater, who dwell a little beyond us, who will at



any time feast the senses with a good joke and drive away dull care.

I must not forget to mention that our friend "David" had a quilting party Wednesday. Winter is coming, Messrs. Editors; we have already had a snap from "Jack Frost," so that due preparations are being made to shield the landlord from his blighting effects. The fair ones (we have them here as thick as hair on a dog,) came in fine style, and things went on lively and well until the arrival of a milk train, when a delegation came from Sufferns with the intention of clearing the bar room, consisting of eight all told. Three of them were from Paterson, the rest from Sufferns, and are to work in or near that place.--There was a desperate affray, one person was beset by six of them and made use of a bottle to defend himself and broke it over them, injuring two or three severely in the mouth.--Peace being restored, the ball went on and was kept up to a respectable hour.

On Tuesday night "One Eye McConkey" was around with her retinue, calling up the inmates of a tavern, spending 20 cents for whiskey and 7 cents for cigars. They prowled around for a time, and then left for the Scrubs in a single file.

Respectfully yours, ROVER.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

- Mr. Philip Farbaniec of Allendale
- Miss Agnes C. Norton of Bogota
- Mr. & Mrs. James Secor of Allendale
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. Smith of Allendale
- Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Webb of Allendale

Accessions

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

A collection of numerous photographs, newspaper clippings, souvenir booklets, and commemorative booklets concerning Allendale; newspapers published by Archer Church in 1894, 1903, and 1904; various receipts from Allendale businesses and individuals dated ca. 1910-1915; ledger record book of the butcher business of Theo. R. Price, ca. 1911; all donated by Mr. & Mrs. George Price.

Three photographs of Allendale, donated by Mrs. Frank L. Megnin.

More appreciation...

To Ed Grosman for loaning photographs to be copied for the society's collection.

* * * * *

Readers who would like to contribute an article, story, or reminiscence for publication in our newsletter are encouraged to do so!

Memberships to the Society (each of which includes a subscription to Allendale History and Heritage) make wonderful gifts and help to support the Society. Do you have a neighbor, friend, or relative who might enjoy a membership? If so, send us a check and your name and address as well as the name and address of the recipient, and we will send a hand-lettered notice of your gift to the recipient. Please note if the gift is for Christmas; if so we will use an appropriate gift card.

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

Membership Categories: (Annual Dues)

- Family Membership.....\$5.00
- Individual Membership.....\$3.00

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: Pat Wardell

