



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 4, 1978, 8:30 p.m. at the new Allendale Municipal Building, Crescent Avenue, Allendale.

PROGRAM: "Early Recollections of Allendale," a panel discussion featuring three of our members: William ("Bub") Buhlman, Mae Selfridge, and Russell Mallinson. When these three of our favorite people get together to discuss old times in Allendale, we can expect and predict a lively, interesting, and entertaining evening! Come, bring friends, and plan to ask questions (here's where you can find out "everything you always wanted to know about Allendale, but didn't know who to ask!")

NEWS AND VIEWS: Our slide program of old and new views of Allendale was presented by Bobbie Kunisch to all of the fifth grade classes at Brookside School in October. As always, the children really loved the program, and we are very grateful to Mrs. Kunisch for volunteering to present the program for them.

ALLENDALE, NEW JERSEY--"THE PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE"

by Frank Berdan

In this issue, we continue the brief history of Allendale which was written by Frank Berdan for publication in a souvenir booklet celebrating the first anniversary of the Allendale Police Department in 1929. The booklet also contained the program for a presentation by the Allendale Players produced in honor of the occasion. Because the souvenir booklet is long out of print and, as far as we know, the short history has never been reprinted, we reprint it here for your enjoyment, just as it appeared in 1929.

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 defense 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 the 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 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."

Our 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 incident, 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 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,

*Judge John Fell actually lived in Allendale; for more information about John Fell, see "John Fell of Petersfield," in Vol. I, No. 3 (February 1975) of Allendale History and Heritage.

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 their 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 Avenue.* 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 New 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 occupied 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. Mallinson, 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. Later 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. Yeomans, 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.

(to be continued next issue)

**The old gate house was torn down shortly after this article was written; today all that remains is the wellhouse that stood in front of the toll gate house.*

"FIRST FAMILIES" OF ALLENDALE...Notes on early residents of Allendale
Compiled by Pat Wardell and Vicinity

Ackerman, John A.

Son of Aaron Cuyper Ackerman and Hester Sharp. Born May 3, 1825 at Allendale, died November 22, 1902. He married, on August 12, 1847 at Saddle River, Margaret H. Hopper. They had children James Alfred Ackerman (died young), James Alfred Ackerman (b. 1850), John Jacob Ackerman (b. 1851), and Aaron Cooper Ackerman (b. 1855). They lived in the Chestnut Ridge section of Washington Township.

Ackerman, John G.

Son of Garret Ackerman and Charity Hopper. He was born April 10, 1794 at Saddle River, died Dec. 5, 1885. He married Maria Vanderbeek and they had children: Charity Ann Ackerman (b. 1824), Henritetta Ackerman (b. 1826), Mary Felter Ackerman (b. 1827), Jane (Jennie) Ackerman (b. 1830), Martha Ackerman (b. 1832), Andrew Hopper Ackerman (b. 1835, he was called "Hop" Ackerman), Cornelius Henry Ackerman (b. 1839), John Abraham Ackerman (born 1841, died young), and John Ackerman (born 1844, died young). This family lived in the house at 475 Franklin Turnpike, Allendale (where Judge John Fell lived during the Revolution) and John G. Ackerman was host to Joseph Warner Allen (for whom Allendale was named) about 1846, when Allen was surveying the proposed route of the Paterson and Ramapo Railroad.

Ackerman, John H.

Son of Richard Vanderbeek Ackerman and Caroline Ackerman. He was born February 26, 1871 in Allendale, died February 5, 1957 in Florida. He married, on November 18, 1891 at Airmont, N.Y., Jennie A. Hemion. They had children: Mary Edna Ackerman (married Herbert J. Winter), Richard V. Ackerman, and two other children who died young. They lived first on Park Avenue, later on Allendale Avenue, and finally on Elm Street. John H. Ackerman continued his father's general store business in Allendale (later the business sold coal and fuel oil). John H. Ackerman served as an Allendale Councilman, was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Department, and both he and his wife were active in many civic organizations in Allendale.

Ackerman, John Jacob.

Son of John A. Ackerman and Margaret H. Hopper. Born November 24, 1851, died 1938. He married Laura Raymond Ackerman in 1872 and they had several children. He taught in the Allendale school and was Principal of the school in 1900.

Ackerman, Morris S.

Son of Aaron Ackerman and Margaret Hopper. He was born October 23, 1839. He married Elizabeth Ramsey on October 22, 1859 at New Prospect (Waldwick). Morris S. Ackerman was a farmer and a grocer, and was reputed to have begun his grocery business by selling goods in a part of the hotel at Allendale prior to 1872.

Ackerman, Richard Vanderbeek

Son of Abraham G. Ackerman and Catherine Vanderbeek. He was born September 5, 1837 and died March 12, 1904. He married, as his first wife, on November 2, 1861 at Paramus, Caroline Ackerman. They had children: Ellen Catherine Ackerman (b. 1863), Rachel Jane Ackerman (b. 1865), Abraham Ackerman (b. 1867), John H. Ackerman (b. 1871), Mary Elizabeth Ackerman (b. 1872), Caroline Ackerman (b. 1875), William Ackerman (b. 1877), Margaret Ackerman (b. 1879), and Myra Ackerman (married Chartre D. Mallinson). R. V. Ackerman

ran a grocery and general store in Allendale from about 1870 until after 1900. He was Postmaster of Allendale in 1885 and was later Tax Collector of the Borough of Allendale.

Ackerman, William H.

Son of Aaron Cooper Ackerman and Jane Maria Eckerson. He was born Dec. 17, 1876 and died in July 1947. He married, as his first wife, in 1907, May Alida Stocker. After her death, he married Beatrice Imogene Terry. He lived on East Allendale Avenue and was cashier for the Royal Insurance Company. He was an accomplished organist and played the organ for several churches in northwest Bergen County.

Ackerson, Charles

According to an ad from the Allendale Methodist Herald in 1904, Charles Ackerson sold fruits and vegetables in Allendale. He and his wife, Maggie, had children, including Anna Ruth Ackerson, Ethel Carrie Ackerson, and Charles William Ackerson.

Ackerson, Jacob D.

Born about 1845, he died May 12, 1911. He married, in 1864, Mary Ackerman, and they had children: Katherine (b. 1865, married Henry Straut), Charles Ackerson (b. about 1868), Abraham Ackerson (b. about 1870), Carry Ackerson (b. about 1871), James Ackerson (b. about 1873, married Ella Straut), Mamie Ackerson (b. about 1875, married James Y. Mowerson), and Jennie Ackerson (b. about 1877, married Charles Johnson).

Ackerson, James

Son of Jacob D. Ackerson and Mary Ackerman. He was born about 1873 and married, in November 1891, Ella Straut. They had at least two children: Jacob D. Ackerson, and Della May Ackerson.

Ackerson, John J.

Lived in the vicinity of Allendale about the time of the Revolution. He is listed in 1779 Franklin Township Rateables as owning 100 acres of land, and 7 horses or cattle. In the 1880 Rateables he is listed as owning 60 acres of improved land, 40 acres unimproved land, 2 horses, 6 horned cattle, and 4 hogs.

Ackerson, Milton ("Mills")

Son of Ryerson Ackerson, he was born in 1881 and died in 1955. He married Frances Mulray and they had two daughters. He lived all of his life in Allendale; was said to have been born on Mallinson Street, and he lived on Brookside Avenue at the time of his death. He was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Department and worked for the Borough of Allendale for 27 years as water registrar and general utility man.

Ackerson, Ryerson

Born about 1840, he and his wife Rachel had children: Charles Ackerson (b. about 1865), Jacob Ackerson (b. about 1868), Anna Ackerson (b. about 1870), Roland Ackerson (b. about 1872), John Ackerson (b. about 1875), Milton ("Mills") Ackerson (b. 1881), and Lucy Ackerson (b. after 1880). The family homestead was on First Street.

Allen, Joseph Warner

Son of Samuel Allen and Sarah Warner. He married Sarah Burns Norcross and they had at least one son, William Frederick Allen, born October 9, 1846 at Bordentown, N.J. Joseph Warner Allen lived with the John G. Ackerman family for a period of time between 1846 and 1848 when Allen was surveying the proposed route of the Paterson and Ramapo Railroad. When the train began running through Allendale in 1848 and a depot was established here,

it was suggested that the station at the tiny village be named after the route's surveyor, and so Allendale got its name. Joseph Warner Allen was chief engineer of the Hoboken Land and Improvement Co., the Dundee Water Power and Land Co., and various railroad enterprises. As deputy quartermaster-general of New Jersey, he organized and equipped the first eight regiments of three years' volunteers for the Civil War and as colonel of the 9th N.J. volunteers, joined the Burnside expedition to North Carolina; he was drowned off hatteras in 1862.

Allen, William Frederick

Son of Joseph Warner Allen. He was born in Bordentown, N.J. in 1846. He was an editor and railroad expert. In some accounts he is erroneously listed as the Allen for whom Allendale was named. His distinctions were many, but in fact, it was his father for whom the tiny community was named circa 1850. William Frederick Allen's main claim to fame is as the "father of standard time"-- he devised, in 1883, a practical plan for a common-sense adjustment between local and standard time which was adopted that same year by every railroad in the United States, and within a few weeks it was extended throughout the world.

Alling, Willard

Born in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, he graduated from Harvard University and New York University Law School. He was admitted to the bar in New Jersey and New York. He received his training as a teacher at Pennsylvania State Normal School and was a teacher in the Allendale School for 33 years, serving as School Principal for most of those years. He married Mabel Quackenbush. They had children: Howard and Dorothy (married Lee Kornhoff). He was justice of the peace in 1920 and served as Tax Collector of Allendale for 8 years. He was active in many educational and civic organizations, including the Holiday Observers (of which he was president in 1932).

(to be continued in next issue)

New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Berdan of Pennsylvania
Mr. W. Jerome Hatch of Illinois
Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Preston of Hackettstown
Mrs. Eleanor Schmitz of Ramsey

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

Membership Categories: (Annual Dues)

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

Additions to, corrections of, and just plain comments on the articles and items printed in the newsletter are always welcome. In addition, anyone who would like to contribute an article, story, or reminiscence for publication in our newsletter is hereby encouraged to do so!

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

New members are always welcome; simply mail name, address, and dues to above address.

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