



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

VOL. VI

NOVEMBER 1979

No. 2

NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 3, 1979, 8:30 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale.

PROGRAM: We will have a sequel to one of our most popular past programs--a panel of five or six of Allendale's long-time leading citizens will reminisce about "Memories of Bygone Years in Allendale." We cordially invite any other long-time residents (or anyone with happy memories of Allendale) to join us for the meeting and participate in the discussion. Last year we were very happily surprised to have Laura Barrett Haviland, who lived in Allendale as a child, come all the way from Red Bank to attend our meeting and her memories of childhood in Allendale enlivened our meeting. Come and join us for a festive holiday meeting and bubbling refreshments.

NEWS AND VIEWS: In our last newsletter we detailed our hopes for and work toward the preservation and restoration of the Smith house on Brookside Avenue. To our very great dismay, we must now report that the Allendale Board of Adjustment turned down the application for a variance which would have permitted two buildings to stand on one lot. The application, made by Russell Anderson for Chestnut Ridge Associates, the developers of the tract, was an effort to cooperate with our society toward the preservation of the house on the site. At the Board of Adjustment meeting, however, Mr. Anderson gave testimony against his own proposed application! One Board member commented that in all his years of serving on the Board, he could not remember another incidence where an applicant gave testimony against his own application. When asked by the Board if he wished to withdraw his application, Mr. Anderson declined, but asked for an immediate decision. The decision, influenced by Mr. Anderson's testimony that it would not be economically feasible to restore the house after the effects of the fire during the summer as well as his apprehension that the house, if left on the present site, would interfere with driving vision, was to deny the variance.

We would like to thank those of our own members, especially Marian Strangfeld, Eva Schmitt, Jeanne Cotz, Pat Wardell, Lucie Kirylak, Claire Tholl, who worked with us to try to preserve the house. We are also grateful for the professional assistance given by George Cotz, Bud Van Houten, Ed Lenik, and Shirley Lally.

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We are very happy to announce that Gene Webb has agreed to serve as a Trustee to fill the unexpired term of Jack Knapp.

We are looking for volunteers to type envelopes and collate newsletters four times a year. Our newsletter is published in September, November, February, and April. If you would be willing to do this job, or to help, please call Marian Strang-

feld (327-3510) or Pat Wardell (327-0605).

We now have two duplicate slide programs which are available on loan to organizations, schools, churches, etc. If you would like to borrow our slide program for your group, call Marian Strangfeld (327-3510).

IN MEMORIAM: It is with very deep regret that we record the deaths of two of our members. Lee Kornhoff, who lived in Allendale all his life, died last March at the age of 78.

William ("Bub") Buhlman, a charter member and enthusiastic supporter of our society, died in October at the age of 79. "Bub" rarely missed a meeting with us, and his wonderful smile, twinkling eye, and bubbling sense of humor will be sorely missed.

Both gentlemen were integral parts of the fabric of Allendale for many years, and Allendale will never be quite the same without them.

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A HISTORY OF ALLENDALE

Compiled by the Allendale Eighth Grade, 1945
under the direction of Willetta R. La Roe
(continued from previous issue)

PART V

Public Buildings.....by Charles Hennessey

Allendale's first public building was the Episcopal Church.¹ The finding of some old religious leaflets by Mrs. Stephen Cable led to the starting of a Sunday School in 1872, and later to the first church services in 1873. In 1876 the first church opened. It was located on what was then called Chapel Street, now called Cottage Place. In 1894 it was moved to the corner of Franklin Turnpike and Orchard Street, its present location in anticipation of an addition to it. The addition was added in 1902. It was designed and built by William Dewsnap who still resides in Allendale.

The Archer Memorial Methodist Church was founded by a summer resident of Allendale, O. H. P. Archer, who because of the inconvenience of a trip to Hohokus on Sundays, especially in stormy weather, presented the church to Allendale. The church was dedicated in 1876 and a Sunday School building was added soon after. The chapel was redecorated in 1893 and an organ was presented to the church in 1923.

Allendale's first school was located on the corner of Franklin Turnpike and Chestnut Street. This was when Allendale was a part of Orville Township. Each year the Board of Education voted on whether or not to have a free school the next year. After having served for a number of years the school became too small. It had 80 pupils in 1876.

The Board of Education voted to build a new four room school on Franklin Turnpike near Allendale Avenue on a piece of land then owned by the Board. After the school was built the old school was auctioned off at a public auction. It was bought by H. Appert and used as a storehouse until it burned down in 1895. The new school, now used as our Municipal building, was larger and had the modern improvements of that day. This school served until 1929 when the present school (Brookside School) was built.

¹Editor's Note: Actually, Allendale's first known public building was the one-room school on the corner of Franklin Turnpike and Chestnut St. It was built in 1826.

The present school, on Brookside Avenue, is a very modern brick structure with nine classrooms, a manual training room, home economics room, lavatories, a teacher's room, cafeteria, a principal's office, a library and a combination auditorium and gymnasium. The Board of Education now employs Paul D. O'Connor as supervising Principal, thirteen teachers, and two janitors. Today Allendale has 260 pupils in its grade school, 94 in the Ramsey High School, 11 in college, and one in West Point who graduates this June. The school has two famous graduates so far: J. Parnell Thomas, Mayor of Allendale in 1925, now a U.S. Congressman; the other was George Nimmo, a famous Bergen County Sheriff.

Our cafeteria, an advantage over some schools, was started while Mr. Alling was principal (1907-1940). It was originally under Mrs. De Graw, but is now sponsored by the Board of Education under Mrs. De Graw's supervision. Mrs. De Graw, assisted by Mrs. Morgan and a few pupils from each grade, serves about 175 meals each day.

Our railroad station on W. Allendale Avenue has been serving us for many years.

The first Post Office was located in the Erie depot in Allendale. It was later moved to Winter's Grocery Store and from there to its present location on the corner of W. Allendale Ave. and Myrtle Ave., and maintained as a separate business. The postmaster is Frank A. Farrell. The Post Office employs six people.

The Fire House in Allendale is located on Park Avenue. Allendale had no organized Fire Department until 1910. A disastrous fire in 1909 shocked the citizens into action. Recalling other fires that couldn't be stopped, they organized a volunteer fire department. The cornerstone of the building was laid in 1913, and the building is still the headquarters of the department. (*Editor's Note: the original fire house burned on March 7, 1963. The new firehouse was built near the same site by May 1964.*)

The Catholic Church located on the corner of Elm and Maple Streets was established in 1913 also.

The Allendale Public Library was first located on the second floor of the present Municipal Building (former schoolhouse), then in the Braun Building until the erection of its own building on the corner of Franklin Turnpike and West Allendale Avenue in 1926.

The Telephone Building, on West Allendale Avenue, was established in 1930.

The Ambulance Building was built in 1939 and is located next door to the Fire Department building. It is our newest public building.

PART VI

Fire Department.....by Edwin Grosman and John Occhipinti

On New Year's Eve of 1909, after a couple of disastrous fires, a group of 52 townsmen determined to create a fire department in Allendale.

The equipment the Allendale Fire Department had first consisted of buckets and hatchets. Later they got a two wheel buggy that was pulled by hand. This carried a fire hose, two hatchets, and a lantern. About ten years later they got a hook and ladder.

A few of the major fires which occurred in Allendale were when the Max Scholz and William J. Kornhoff buildings on Myrtle Avenue burned to the ground on Christmas morning of 1909. Another large fire in Allendale occurred in 1910 when the Zabriskie house burned down. It was in that year that the first fire truck was purchased.

The first fire alarm system was a large iron rim from the wheel of a train and the firemen would hit with a hammer according to code numbers

for different parts of the town. One was located at the four corners on Franklin Turnpike. Later a bell was used, but today an electric siren is sounded from our attractive firehouse which was erected on Park Avenue and dedicated in 1913. We now possess two fire trucks.

The highest ranking firemen in Allendale today are: George Megnin, chief; Harold Osborne, assistant chief; Robert Wilson, captain; and E. Critchley, lieutenant. The fire company is entirely voluntary with a membership of 51.

The first fire insurance policy sold in the borough of Allendale was in 1895 by John Ackerman of Wyckoff, the nearest agent. The present Allendale agents are Mr. Critchley and Mr. Kornhoff who maintain offices here.

The Allendale insurance rate on a house for three years is \$4.87 for \$1,000, and on a garage is \$.85 per \$100. Because of the installation of city water and improved fire-fighting equipment, there has been a 10 percent decrease in the last 15 years in the borough.

PART VII

Police Department.....by Kenneth Forshay and Herbert Halpern

In the early days life was simple and few strangers entered this community. With the introduction of the railroad, then later of automobiles, many undesirable people passed through our town. The county sheriff's office was not enough. We needed local protection.

The Allendale Police Department was started in the year 1925 by Mayor J. P. Thomas. Its protection consisted of pistols of a special 38 caliber Colt double action. In 1939 the Police Department stopped and the Marshal System was put into effect, in order to save the expense of paying the police force \$5,600 a year to keep it going while the Marshal system costs considerably less a year. The Marshal system still has only the 38 double action Colt revolvers for protection. At first the police or Marshals didn't have a car; then, when they were quite well organized, they got a car and since then they have had one at their disposal.

The first duty of the new marshalsystem is to enforce the laws of our community. They patrol streets to check on street lights and enforce speed limits. They also check on all store doors to see that they are locked and see if the night lights are on. Every night there is a street patrol from 10 P.M. to 1 A.M. on weekdays and 10 P.M. to 3 A.M. on Saturdays and Sundays.

PART VIII

Water.....Herbert Clarke

The early residents of this section had to get their water from wells by a hand bucket, or from artesian wells by a hand pump. The people of Allendale may attribute several factors to the excellent water service in their town: first, the capable supervision of Mr. Chris Otto; second, the natural spring waters which need no chemical treatment to be made pure; lastly, the excellent pipelines which cover practically all of the borough.

In the year 1930, two of Allendale's three pumphouses were installed on the Country Club Estates in Ramsey. Just nine years later, in 1939, the third pumphouse was installed in case of emergency. These pump-

houses can pump 460 gallons a minute.

So the next time you sip a glass of Allendale's sparkling Aqua Pura think of our great water department.

PART IX

Health and Safety.....Anna Clair Tice and Ruth Fox

Allendale is a healthful place in which to live. It is 435 feet above sea level. We breathe clean air since we have no factories within our town. The death rate is very low. The local authorities protect the citizens before they are born by having the community nurse call on and advise mothers. The school closely guards the health of its children by having periodic physical examinations and a nurse and doctor on its staff.

There used to be much malaria in this area of Bergen County due to mosquitoes, but the county authorities spray oil on all breeding places so the mosquitoes cannot hatch. Today a case of malaria is a rarity.

The Allendale Board of Health, County Board of Health, and State Board of Health see that the town's people are healthy by inspecting stores and dairies, quarantining people with contagious diseases, and requesting vaccinations and by taking other preventative measures.

The Brookview Dairy on Forest Road has 13 cows, all of which are Guernseys, Jerseys, or Holsteins. One cow gives about 16 quarts of milk a day. Altogether Mr. Galencamp, the owner, gets 160 quarts of milk a day. Extra precautions are taken to care for the milk. Before milking the cows, they must be washed and brushed. After milking, the milk is cooled, strained, and put into bottles. The State examines the cows every six months. The Brookside Dairy farm serves 50 families in Allendale and 100 in Hohokus Township. The dairy has been in existence since 1937.

In July 1937 an ambulance was offered to Doctor Kanning by the Hackensack Hospital. He in turn offered it to the town officials who accepted, and asked for volunteers to work on it. Mr. Paul D. O'Connor started with 18 other members to study standard first aid. Now there are 23 members. They serve Allendale, Saddle River, Upper Saddle River, and Waldwick.

In October 1939 we purchased the present ambulance by house to house donations. It cost \$3,500. for the ambulance and \$700. for the appliances. \$400. of the \$4,200. was donated by the Ramsey Legion. The Allendale Corps must have free time whenever a call might come. The members of the Corps cannot accept tips. If they are offered any they must put it in the treasury. The members of the Allendale Corps are: President, Thomas Brady, Vice President, Archie Farrell; Treasurer, Carl Wehner; Captain Paul D. O'Connor; with 14 other active members and 4 in service. The Allendale Ambulance Corps takes care of approximately 165 people in a year, about 60 of them are Allendale people. It takes about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to get to Hackensack Hospital from Allendale. This is our County Hospital.

Allendale tries to protect its citizens from accidents by advertising the school zone and having a speed limit for traffic. If an accident does occur, and many occur in the home, its trained ambulance corps rushes to assist the victim.

To see to it that school children are kept in good health, the school nurse examines the pupils, and a school doctor treats them. Our school doctor in Allendale is F. Kanning, M.D., who lives on Orchard

Street. Teeth, if properly cared for, should last a lifetime. Teeth should be brushed two or three times a day and examined twice a year by a dentist. When a dentist is taking care of some one's teeth, he should take all the precaution he can. Dr. Zielengold, Allendale's dentist, on West Allendale Avenue, takes care of approximately 80 to 100 people a week.

The American Red Cross has an active unit in Allendale. At present the ladies, clad sanitarily in white, meet every Thursday for the entire day in the home economics room in the grammar school to roll bandages and sew hospital garments for men in the armed forces of World War II.

(to be continued)

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

(continued)

Compiler's Note: This alphabetical listing cannot be considered an all-inclusive list of prominent early Allendale residents. We invite any member or friend to write us to add information to any listing or to insert an omitted listing. These notes are being compiled using information that has been accumulated over the years, and we freely acknowledge that this list is not complete. In general, it is our policy to list residents who were born or lived in Allendale prior to 1900 (some arbitrary cut-off date had to be imposed) but there are a few exceptions for those with unusual or outstanding accomplishments or lengthy and dedicated service to Allendale.

Burtis, L. Bayard

Born about 1863, he lived in Allendale in the early 1900's until his death in May 1905. He was an insurance and real estate agent.

Cable, Robert B.

The son of Stephen Cable and Emma Berdell, he was born about 1841. In 1858, when he was 17 years old, he began a career with the Erie Railroad, working at the Bergen Tunnel. In 1865 he was made a chief clerk, and later was advanced to Superintendent of the Susquehanna Division of the Erie. He later worked for railroads in the west. He lived in Allendale from about 1870 and sold his Allendale home in 1884 to William B. Asten. He and his wife Catherine had two sons: Frank Cable and Harry Cable.

Cable, Stephen

Born about 1815, he died in September 1887. He was living in Allendale before 1870, at which time he and his wife, the former Emma Berdell, were listed in the Federal Census along with four Swiss-born employees living with them. Stephen Cable was a Ferry Master for the Erie Railway Company on the Pavonia Ferry. He and his wife lived in the house on Franklin Turnpike formerly owned by John Fell and then John Ackerman, and later owned by Joseph Taylor and now by the Pfisters. The Cables had two children: Robert B. Cable and Mary Emma Cable (who married, about 1850, James A. Reading). Mrs. Cable and her daughter, Mrs. Reading, began a Sunday school for the Episcopal Church in 1872, holding meetings in their parlor.

Carver, Fannie M. (Mrs. Wallace E.)

Mrs. Carver was one of the Allendale women who started the library in Allendale in 1900. She was president of the Village Improvement Association's Allendale Library Committee (which ran the library in its early years) in 1917 and was elected Librarian of the Association

in 1919. She died in October 1939 and in the following month the Library Association composed a resolution expressing appreciation of her efforts as a founder of the library movement in Allendale and as a constant worker for many years.

Carver, Wallace E.

Born in North Leeds, Maine in 1863, he worked for a law firm on Wall Street in New York City. He was active in Allendale civic affairs, serving as president of the Garden Club, a member of the Board of Trade, secretary of the Board of Health, and president of the Allendale Players. He had served in the Navy during the Spanish-American War. He and his wife had one daughter, Dorothy Carver (Becker).

Ceely, Lyman

Born in Brooklyn on June 13, 1898, he lived in Allendale from about 1932 until his death in December 1951. He and his family lived on Hillside Avenue and later at 125 Dale Avenue. In World War I he served with the 106th Infantry, 27th Division and was awarded both the Conspicuous Service Cross by the State of New York and the order of the Purple Heart by the U.S. government. He was a member of the American Legion, Allendale Post 204, a member of the Allendale Fire Department, a member of the Allendale Ambulance Corps, and a life member of the American Red Cross. He served as borough councilman from 1937 to 1942, and as Mayor of Allendale from 1943 to 1944. He and his wife, Elizabeth, had one son, David, who was lost in action on December 20, 1943 while on a combat mission to Bremen, Germany.

Christopher, Charles

Born about 1831, he and his wife, Elizabeth, lived by 1860 in the old Toll Gate house. Later they lived on West Crescent Avenue near the railroad crossing. He was a farmer and carpenter. They had seven children: John William, born January 27, 1855, died 1936; Harriet A., born about 1857-58; Francis (Frank) born about 1860; Rosa M., born about 1862; Catherine (Kate), born about 1864-65; Charity E., born about 1866; and Louisa, born about 1870. Charles Christopher died about 1893.

Christopher, Henry

Son of John Christopher and Aaltje Zabriskie, he was born on February 23, 1798 and was baptised on March 4, 1798 at Paramus. He married, on November 4, 1835 at New Prospect (Waldwick), Letitia Terhune Earl, widow of John Earl. She was the daughter of John S. Terhune and Elizabeth Zabriskie, and had been born December 19, 1795. She died on March 10, 1849. Henry Christopher married, second, Jane (or Janet) -----. Henry was a farmer and lived on West Crescent Avenue near the railroad crossing. He died in 1868.

Christopher, Jacob Muried

The son of Richard Christopher and Anna Maria Green Ackerman, he was born February 15, 1879 and was baptised on May 15, 1879 at Wyckoff. He married Ada Mallinson, daughter of William Henry Mallinson and Mary Ella White. She had been born on October 31, 1882. They had one son, Olin M. Christopher. J. M. Christopher ran the Allendale Coal and Lumber Corporation and was a director of the Citizen's First National Bank and Trust Co. in Ridgewood. He married, after the death in 1955 of his first wife, Helen R.-----. J. M. Christopher died October 18, 1966 and is buried at George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus.

Christopher, John

Born probably about 1760, he married, on November 30, 1782 in New York City, Aaltje Zabriskie, who was the daughter of Jacob H. Zabriskie and Wyntje Terhune. She had been baptised on October 31, 1762 at Paramus. They had eight children: Joseph, born 1783, married Euphemia Swinn; Gitty (Charity), married James Brooks; Jacob, married

Geesje (Keziah) Bogert; John, married Mary -----; Wyntje (Lavina), born April 1 1791, married William G. Hopper; Jane, baptised April 6, 1795 at Paramus; Henry, born February 23, 1798, married (1) Letitia Terhune, and (2) Jane -----; and Anna, born July 20, 1803, married John Storr. John Christopher died in 1832 and his wife, Aaltje, died January 9, 1835.

Christopher, John J.

The son of Joseph Christopher and Euphemia (Eva) Swinn, he was born October 13, 1808 and was baptised January 15, 1809 at Paramus. He married (1) on January 5, 1831 at New Prospect (Waldwick), Jemima Van Buskirk, the daughter of Andrew J. Van Buskirk and Elizabeth Van Dien. They lived on East Saddle River Road in Saddle River, and had four children: Joseph, born 1837; Andrew J., born 1834; Peter J., born 1839, and John Jacob, born 1844. After Jemima's death in 1846, John J. married (2) Jane Smith, daughter of George Smith and Charity Van Buskirk. They had four children: Richard, born 1852; Ira Stephen, born 1849; Maria Louisa, born 1853; and Catherine Ann, born 1857. John J. Christopher died August 20, 1881 and his second wife, Jane, died September 3, 1883. They are both buried in the Lutheran Churchyard in Saddle River.

(to be continued)

New Members

Accessions

Mrs. Joseph Porter of Wyckoff
 Miss Gayle Webb of Englewood
 Mr. & Mrs. Hans Sammer of Allendale
 Mrs. Thomas Greaven of Marlboro, N.Y.
 Mr. & Mrs. John Winship of Allendale
 Mr. & Mrs. William N. Yeomans of
 Upper Saddle River

120-pg. book, "Mary's Family Connections," compiled by Mary Anthony Lathrop and Charles Leonard Lathrop. Donated by Mary Anthony Lathrop of Lebanon, Connecticut. Genealogical and biographical notes, records, and recollections, including some of the Anthony and Letts families of Allendale.
 469-pg. book, "From Pioneer Settlement to Suburb: a History of Mahwah, N.J., 1700-1976." Donated by Pat Wardell.

Allendale Historical Society
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Allendale Historical Society
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