



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 5, 1980, 8:30 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale.

PROGRAM: Father John Finn of the Immaculate Conception Seminary in Mahwah, a local historian, will present a program about Bergen County Women's Role in the Revolutionary War.

NEWS AND VIEWS: The Nominating Committee has prepared the following slate of officers for the coming year, 1980-81:

President: Volunteer needed
 Vice President: Jeanne Cotz
 Treasurer: Mr. & Mrs. Schuyler Keating
 Secretary: Dorothy Kornhoff

Additional nominations for any office will be accepted from the floor at our meeting May 5.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

In its six years of existence, the Allendale Historical Society has become a flourishing, well-respected and vital organization in the community. We are proud of its growth. However, if we are to maintain this standing, the assistance of local members is essential. Our immediate needs are for officers and committee members. The Executive Board appeals to you for your help. Please indicate in writing or at the May meeting the position for which you would like to be considered.

---A. Marian Strangfeld

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A HISTORY OF ALLENDALE
 Compiled in 1945 by the Allendale Eighth Grade
 under the direction of Willetta R. La Roe
 (continued from previous issue)

PART XI

Recreation.....by Janet Taylor, Grace Trickey, William Hasenbalg, and Arthur Mueller

In the early days of Allendale, the only forms of recreation were swimming at Longrack, hayrides and movies in summer, and coasting down Toll Gate Hill, skating at various small ponds in winter, to say nothing of the other indoor sports and parlor games that still exist. Now we are fortunate to have many recreation organizations and several very fine amusement places including:

Crestwood Lake. In 1927, the lake, which got its name from a wooded crest on its west bank, was called Mallinson's Pond. It used to be a tiny mud hole, one-tenth of its present size, infested with turtles and plenty of good fish. The owner, Mr. Mallinson, owned a flat-bottomed row boat, which all the young swains used at any opportunity they had. The present owners bought it with the idea of making it into a real estate development. After two years of cleaning, dredging, widening and covering the bottom with 3 feet of sand, they decided to start a swimming club to replenish their treasury. The lake itself now covers 10 acres, the beach one mile, and the entire property 40 acres. At first it had one slide, and one stand, besides some playground equipment, which has been added to during the years. Mrs. Corsan, the first woman to swim the English Channel, supervised life guarding at Crestwood for 3 years. (Editor's note: Mrs. Corson was not the first woman, but the first mother, to swim the English Channel.) Since its beginning, it has been staffed with a good number of lifeguards, has a first aid house, inhalators, oxygen tanks, complete first aid equipment, 2 bath houses, running water from its own well, water purified by a special chlorinating system and strained by a filtering system, a dance floor with music, 2 refreshment stands, a softball court, swings and see-saws. People from Jersey City, N.J. to Nyack, N.Y. enjoy this as one of the many facilities Allendale has to offer.

San Jacinto, one of the two swimming pools in Allendale, was named by Mr. Hutches for that battle, which was fought in his native state. He, coming from Texas, fancied naming animals, places, and things here after things that pertain to that state. The first pond is a natural one, the second was dug out. Both are supplied, of course, with fresh water from a brook. Admission to this pool is through private membership. People come from all parts of Bergen County to swim at San Jacinto.

The Recreation Park was built in 1916. The park is used for baseball games, and Independence Day and Labor Day exercises. It is kept up by Christian Otto, who cuts the grass and keeps the park in good shape. The town's people are very proud of it.

The Holiday Observers Organization was formed in Allendale to provide the townsfolks with entertainment at various times of the year. Each year at Christmas they put on a program for the children. Also at Fallowe'en they have a program. This helps keep the children from running around in the streets at night.

The American Legion was organized for soldiers and sailors who enlisted in the army or navy between April 7, 1917 and Nov. 11, 1918. They have 4,000,000 members all over the country. The American Legion Post in our community has 31 members in it. They are commanded by Mr. H. Davis. They meet at the Legion Hall.

The Allendale Pistol Association was started over five years ago. The president is Charles Lawson. The club meets each week at the range to practice shooting. It has won some trophies for marksmanship.

The Rod and Gun Club was started over twenty years ago by a handful of sportsmen who wanted to help keep the woodlands and streams well

stocked. They got together and organized, electing Mr. Schockert president. He has never been defeated. At each meeting they have different speakers. Sometimes they bring movies. They club also buys rabbits and pheasants and then releases them. Each year the club has a venison dinner which is held at a different place each year. At this year's dinner they unveiled a service flag for the club. They have 276 members in the armed services. The club meets the first Thursday of every month at Legion Hall.

The Allendale Public Library was established in the year 1900 by Mrs. Wallace Carver through the Village Improvement Association. It was established in the schoolhouse on the Franklin Turnpike for the purpose of providing recreation for the summer boarders in this town during the months of June, July, and August. It was later opened the entire year to satisfy the demands of the residents. Mrs. Carver was the first librarian. But at the present time there are five regular and two reserve librarians. All the work, save that of the janitor, is voluntary and unpaid for. They acquire some of their books by using money paid in as dues. They also use the money acquired by dues paid to the Library Association. These dues amount to one dollar for each person per year. They also accept private contributions. The borough gives a small amount of money each year. The library was incorporated under state law in 1921. It was opened in the new building on Allendale Avenue and Franklin Turnpike in 1926. The new wing was opened in 1941. The Library was opened then under the guidance of a board of trustees. The people on the Board now are as follows: President, Mr. William T. Lee; Vice President, Mr. Zabriskie; Treasurer, Mr. Lee; Secretary, Mr. S. Brueckner.

The people who run the Library are hoping the town will take over the library soon. At the present time the library has about 7000 books. When it started, they had 600 books. This library observes the usual rules. They are: Silence and payment of dues promptly. Their hours are from 2:45 to 4:45 on Mondays and Fridays. They are also open both nights from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

The School Library was established in 1929 by request of Principal Alling to the Board of Education and the first librarian was Mrs. Gertrude Etesse. The Board of Education gives \$100 each year for buying books. There are at present around 750 books in the library of which adventure stories are the most popular. The weekly circulation is about 50 books. The library is now under the supervision of Miss I. Norman and Mrs. E. Craze. The head pupil librarian is Louise Lennox and she has ten helpers. It is open Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Brownie Troop 79 is the older group of Brownies (Jr. Girl Scouts) that meets in the first grade room of the Allendale Grammar School on Monday from 3 to 4 o'clock. These 18 girls are from 7 to 10 years of age and are in the third, fourth, and fifth grades. Their activities under the leadership of Mrs. Standing, include folk dancing, games, songs, nature studies and hikes (these include helping to make shelters for and feeding winter birds), making tray favors for the Hackensack Hospital and entertaining mothers. Probably their pledge will make clear their purpose, i.e., to perform duties at home--

"I promise to do my best to love God and my country, to help other people at all times, especially those at home."

This civic organization was established by Mrs. Flandreau at the suggestion of the then Scout Leader, Mrs. Megnin, in 1937 to provide recreation for girls who were soon to become Scouts. Mrs. Flandreau's daughters, Joan and Judy, who were just at the age for the organization,

got their friends to come and so the first 24 Brownies met at the Methodist Church, and later at the homes of the girls.

The Second Brownie Troop was organized recently because of the large number of younger Brownies. They meet in the Kindergarten room on Monday from 2:30 to 3:30 under the guidance of Mrs. Kort, their leader, who is assisted by Mrs. Charles Williams. The purpose of this organization, too, is to prepare the girls for service in the home. Lately they have collected tent caterpillars for a contest, learned folk dancing, and songs. All the girls in this group are second graders, and they number 19.

The Girl Scout Troop 50 are commonly called intermediates. Girl Scouts in Allendale first met in members' homes. They were needed in town because of a lack of recreation for the girls and were brought together on August 30, 1932 for their first meeting. To found a Girl Scout Troop, a Troop Committee had to be formed. On the first one were Mrs. H. Webster, Mrs. E. Berdan, Mrs. E. Craze, Mrs. A. Winne, and Mrs. M. Lightbody. The Committee secured Mrs. L. Megnin as the first leader and Miss R. Dugan and Miss H. Lightbody as her assistants. This troop now meets in the Episcopal Church on Monday afternoons at 3 o'clock. Girl Scouts are formed to prepare the members for service to the community. These girls have been studying stars under the instruction of Mr. T. Dunn and making marionettes for the Court of Awards. Each member must be at least 10 years old.

The Senior Service Scouts Troop 49 was organized in Allendale and registered in February 1945. There had been a need for a Senior Troop but it couldn't be organized until the girls became of high school age. Their leader is Mrs. A. Heuser and assistant leader, Miss M. Schmidheini, both of whom are to receive their ten year pins in Scouting this year. Ruth Anderson presides over the meetings at Mrs. Heuser's home on Friday evenings at 7:30. There they had a Hallowe'en Party, rolled bandages, and packed Christmas boxes for servicemen. The purpose of Senior Scouting is to prepare the girls for service to their state and nation. All Senior Service Scouts must know First Aid, be a First Class Scout, and be of high school age. There are now 18 members in Allendale.

The Allendale Cub Pack was organized in 1943 by the Methodist Church. The advisory board is made up of a group of men who are very much interested in the betterment of the Pack. They are: Mr. Beswick, Mr. Williams, Mr. Spilling, and Mr. Bernstein. The Cubmaster is Harvey Beswick. Any boy between 9 and 12 years of age may join. The pack now has about 40 members.

The Allendale Boy Scout Troop was organized in 1920 by Arthur Albert. The present committee men are: Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Hall, Mr. Kershaw, Mr. McPeck, and Mr. Quackenbush. The Scoutmaster is William Euhlman. He is assisted by four Eagle Scouts, namely: Chales Ruckholtz, Daniel Hamilton, Bradley Dargue, and Robert Simpson. The main purpose of the troop is to develop good sportsmanship. At present the troop has about 25 members. The age limit is 12 years.

The Allendale Boys' Club was organized on August 22, 1943. The organizer was Fred Hasenbalg assisted by Harold Brown, Sr., and Harvie Davis, Sr. The club has 50 members with 20 members in the service of our country. The meeting place is the firehouse. The main activities of the boys in the club are baseball and basketball. The club has grown since it was organized from the beginning to 55 or more members.

Baseball has always been a big attraction in Allendale. Early records are not available but our information dates back to 1926 when the Allendale Baseball Club was organized. The players then were namely: Megnin, Austin, Fox, Winters, Forshay, Wilson, Steele, Kelly, Simpson, Stur, Vanderbeek, Rockefeller and Ibsen. The team broke up because of

the war in 1941, and then was taken over by Victor Scafuro in 1942. The team plays all heavy teams in this section of New Jersey. Mr. Scafuro is trying to keep the club together because almost the whole team is in the service.

The Epiphany Guild is an organization 52 years old, being founded on January 18, 1893. Mrs. Mary Olmstead of Ridgewood, N.J. and Mrs. Willard of Foley, Alabama, two of the original members, are still living. The Guild meets at the home of Mrs. S. P. Fisher because of the war shortage of fuel at the Church where they formerly met. Mrs. G. Haldane is the present president. The purpose of the Guild is to bring the ladies together spiritually and socially. Their activities include helping to finance the church by sewing and giving various affairs. As an example of such, the ladies sponsored a War Day of Prayer on Feb. 16, 1945 at which women of all faiths joined to pray for peace. The Guild now has 35 members.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship has Charles Buckholtz as its president. It was founded in Allendale in the fall of 1942 for the intermediates of the church. The Youth Fellowship meets in Archer Hall at seven o'clock on Sunday evenings. Its purpose is to bring boys and girls of high school age together socially. There are now 30 members. Some of the activities are: Valentine and Hallowe'en parties and dances, sleigh riding, and roller skating.

The Junior Epic, a youths' organization of the Episcopal Church was formed in February 1945 at the request of the young people. Their president is Robert Simpson, their adult leader is Mrs. M. L. Dargue. These nine members have a meeting every Sunday evening and once a month there is a business meeting. Their activities include listening to speakers on various subjects such as oil painting, stars, and electricity. They have also had a sleigh riding party and played at bowling, ping pong, and shuffleboard. All members are in the eighth grade or high school, and meet at the Church.

The first president of the Senior Woman's Club was Mrs. F. A. Whittaker. This club was established in 1918. The purpose of this club is (a) to keep in existence a body of progressive women for the purpose of furthering social and civic welfare; (b) advancing and promoting intellectual improvements. The membership in the club is 103. The dues collected are used for general educational purpose, to award prizes to honor students, for legislation funds and for the education of musical children, to help maintain the Allendale Library, to buy a school magazine, for roadside beautification, for the International Fund, Red Cross, American Legion Poppy Fund, Tuberculosis Seals, Cancer research, China relief and the Old Folks' Home. Their meeting place is at the Legion Hall on Franklin Turnpike. At their meetings they have reports from 16 different Committees including Dramatic and Arts. This club is part of the Federation of Women's Clubs of New Jersey.

The first president of the Junior Woman's Club of Allendale, which was established in 1933, was Margaret Critchley. The purposes of this club are (1) to assist the Senior Woman's Club of Allendale, (2) for Social Welfare through the personal efforts of the members and in cooperation with other organizations, (3) to promote interest in the fine arts, (4) to study and discuss topics of national and international interest, (5) to promote better home making. This club has 35 members at the present time. Their dues go to needy people. A certain percent of it goes to the State organization. They hold meetings at individual homes once a month.

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If there are any omissions in this chronicle, we humbly apologize and hope our readers will believe that the error is unintentional.

FOOTNOTE: The class started to study Allendale as a project in industrial geography. The children became so interested in their town that they decided to extend their research to cover its history. They have acquired much poise in meeting people and learning how to request and conduct interviews, patience and persistence in following every clue offered, keen judgment and discernment in separating the chaff from the wheat in their harvest of information, accuracy in reporting, and keen satisfaction from work well done. ---Mrs. La Roe.

HANDWRITTEN NOTE by Mrs. La Roe: We also held an evening exhibit on Allendale. We featured a series of maps: one on the Atlantic Coast showing Allendale's advantageous position, a relief map of Allendale (Papier mache), street map showing location of public buildings, railroad, etc., a map showing Allendale at work, one showing Allendale at play, etc. We displayed old pictures and snapshots of the town, some "before" and "after" effects, old news clippings, local Indian relics, a Revolutionary blunderbuss, mementos of several wars in which local people had participated, a chronological display of lighting our homes, one on heating our homes through the years, old silver, china, woven quilts, patchwork quilts, old tools, old textbooks, men's, women's and children's clothing of other generations, jewelry, etc. The committee on agriculture even had specimens of Allendale's soils and reports from the New Jersey Experimental Station on the quality and enrichening of same.

For graduation we wrote and presented an original play on "Fifty Years of Allendale's Progress in Education." This was based on actual research in minutes of the old school trustees and of our modern Board of Education. It was humorous and very enlightening. Our costumes and sets won much acclaim.

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

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 the list is far from complete. In general, it is our policy to list residents who were born or lived in Allendale prior to 1900 but there are a few exceptions for those with unusual or outstanding accomplishments or lengthy and dedicated service to Allendale.

Debow, Peter (Tebow)

Probably the son of Ryer Debow and Abigail DeBaun, he married Susanna Pier, daughter of Teunis Pier and Antie Demarest. She was born Feb. 21, 1748. They had children: Ryer Tebow, b. 1784, m. Martha Van Blarcom; Annatje Tebow, bapt. 1787; Sara Tebow, b. December 27, 1790; Johannis Tebow, b. May 4, 1794; Rebecca Tebow, b. March 22, 1797; Peter Tebow, b. October 3, 1800. Peter Tebow (his surname is nearly always found spelled "Tebow") lived in the Allendale area. He died before March 1804. An inventory

made March 2, 1804, of his estate, shows him to have been a very well-to-do man. (The inventory was printed in the September 1976 issue of "Allendale History and Heritage.")

Debow, Ryer

The son of Peter Thibout and Margaret Ryerse (Ryerson; Rogers), he was baptized March 15, 1724 at Hackensack. He married, October 24, 1746, Abigail DeBaun, daughter of James DeBaun and Anna Canniff. They had children: Annatje Debow, bapt. Paramus 1753; Pieter Debow, bapt. Paramus 1755; Rebecca Debow, bapt. Paramus 1750, m. John Van Blarcom.

Debow, Ryer

The son of Peter Tebow and Susanna Pier, he was born May 7, 1784 and married Martha Van Blarcom, the daughter of Isaac Van Blarcom. They had children: Peter Debow, b. 1802; Isaac Debow, b. 1805; John Debow, b. 1808; and Ryer Debow, b. 1811. All of the children were baptized at the Waldwick M.E. Church. The January 11, 1811 Bergen County road return petitioning for vacation of "the Shunpike" in Allendale mentions that the road to be vacated runs over the lands of, among others, "Rier Tebow."

Decker, Sylvanus White

The son of Joseph Decker and Phebe Helm, he was born October 18, 1807 in Blooming Grove and died in Paterson in 1884. He married, in Flemington, N.J. in January 1832, Mary J. Runkle. He was a Methodist minister who served as pastor of the New Prospect (Waldwick) Methodist Church circa 1842. S. W. Decker and his wife, Mary J., had children: Austin Moore Decker, b. 1832; Henry Runkle Decker, b. 1834; Anna Stella Decker, b. 1838; Elizabeth Runkle Decker, b. 1842; Caroline Decker, b. 1844; Joseph Decker, b. 1846; Manning F. Decker, b. 1848; Sylvester Decker, b. 1850; William M. Decker, b. 1853; and Kate Decker, b. 1855.

Degraff, Henry (This surname also spelled variously Margroff, Degrove, Degrau, Degraw, etc.)

Born about 1788, he was the son of Martin Margroff and Carsteana (Christina) --?-- . He married, on January 13, 1816 at Paramus, Aletta Blauvelt. They had children: Margaret Degraff, b. 1816; Mary Ann Degraff, b. 1820, m. Jacob Post; Martin Degraff, b. 1826. Henry Degraff was one of the signers of an application dated June 30, 1827, to establish a road, apparently the eastern continuation of today's Brookside Avenue, from Crescent Avenue easterly to the line of lands of Albert Garrison, probably to meet Franklin Turnpike.

Demarest, Isaac

One of Allendale's earliest schoolteachers, he may have been the Isaac Demarest born May 27, 1813, son of Abraham J. Demarest and Margaret Blauvelt.

Dewar, William (Also spelled "Duer")

He ran a butcher business in Allendale circa 1893-94.

Dewsnap, John

The son of James and Mary Jane Dewsnap, he was born about 1870 on the old homestead in Saddle River. He married Irene Caslin of Brooklyn and they moved to Allendale. About 1928, they moved to the state of Washington, where he died in 1933. John and Irene Dewsnap had one son, Maxwell Dewsnap, who graduated from the Allendale school in 1913.

Dewsnap, Mary (nee Mary Harris)

The daughter of Alfred W. Harris and Catherine Powell, she was born in 1879 in the old Powell homestead which stood on East Allendale Avenue. She married, in June 1902, William Dewsnap. She was

