



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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No. 4

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 4, 8:30 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building.

PROGRAM: "Allendale Then and Now," a slide program comparing old and new views of Allendale, compiled from slides and photographs donated to the Society over the years. Come and see how the scene in Allendale has changed! Members, friends, and guests are cordially invited.

NEWS AND VIEWS

For the first time since our Society was formed in 1974, we find it necessary to raise membership dues to compensate for postage hikes and increased costs of printing and paper, as well as other expenses incurred. Dues for individual membership will rise to \$4.00 per year (from \$3.00 per year) and family membership dues will increase from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per year. As always, dues are not required, but are voluntary, for those members over the age of 65. These changes are reflected on the membership form enclosed with this newsletter. The Society appreciates the continued support and interest of its members.

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LOCAL COLOR

Every village, we presume, has its share of local "characters," and Allendale is no exception. In our reading of old newspapers of a century ago, we came across some items about one "teller of tall tales" who lived in Allendale more than 100 years ago. At first we thought the name -- "Centennial Lott" -- might have been the product of a reporter's tongue-in-cheek humor, but it appears that there actually was a family by the name of Lott living in Allendale at the time. Peter Lott, a laborer, aged 54, and his wife, Mary, same age, are listed in the 1880 census, living in the vicinity of Franklin Turnpike and East Allendale Avenue. "Centennial Lott" may have been Peter's father, or, depending upon the degree of "enlargement" in these tall tales, may even have been Peter himself!

The following items appeared over a four year period in The Bergen County Democrat.

(February 27, 1874): "People living in this place are said to reach an extreme old age. The air, climate, and every thing in nature braces the animal kingdom, and prolongs the lives of human beings until they double up and bend over. Our reporters, while awaiting a train at the station recently, heard a centenarian relating the different places where he had been at service. It was twenty years with one man, forty with another, and ten and fifteen years and thirty, and so on around among the people. Taking out a pencil we began figuring, and the aggregate would make the man upwards of 140 years old. The hero of this story is no relation or descendant of the person, who on turning around to look at Sodom and Gomorrah, while it was burning, was turned into a pillar of salt, but spells his name with the same letters."

(March 3, 1876): "A great deal has been said about the longevity of Centennial Lot. Mr. Lot has been through a dozen or more wars. In the Revolution he crossed the Delaware river barefooted with Gen. Washington. Although he did not sign the Declaration of Independence, still he was present when it was done. He lived a retired life after the Revolution, and when the War of 1812 broke out, he was in arms once more, and had a command at Sandy Hook. In the Mexican War he was at the storming of Monterey, and made himself famous in many a bloodless fight. During the Rebellion he served under Gen. McClellan, and although not holding a commission, still he was there somewhere or other. The old veteran bears his years well, and all the military bearing he shows is in the brass buttons on his coat. If he continues to increase in age as rapidly as he has, Methuselah's 969 years won't be a circumstance."

(April 19, 1878): "ALLENDALE--Centennial Lot, it is supposed, from his long absence, is abroad traveling in the wake of U. S. Grant."

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ALLENDALE NOTES, . . .
BITS AND PIECES OF ALLENDALE HISTORY
COMPILED BY PAT WARDELL

(Continued from the
November 1980 issue)

American Legion Post 204

In December of 1919, Allendale Post 204 of the American Legion was organized and the following officers were elected: Major R. W. Rodman, Commander; Lieutenant George Buhlman, Vice Commander; George Etesse, Adjutant; Russell Mallinson, Treasurer; Edward Rouse, Chaplain; and appointed to the membership committee were: Raymond Arlt (chairman), Oliver Asten, Herbert Winter, and R. V. Wall. The group, originally comprised of veterans of the armed forces who fought in World War I, later included veterans of the armed services who fought in ensuing wars.

Over the years, the members of the Post involved themselves in a variety of activities beneficial to Allendale and its residents, among them: the painting of an aerial sign (to guide pilots), spelling "Allendale" in letters 14 feet high, painted on a shed roof near the railroad station (1929); the organization of a Junior

Patrol system at Brookside School (1940); the placing of monuments and plaques honoring Allendale citizens who served in various wars; sponsorship and organization of Allendale's Memorial Day activities; and many other civic activities.

In 1939-40, the members of the Legion Post converted the old schoolhouse building on Franklin Turnpike, which had not been used for school purposes since the completion of Brookside School in 1929, into a Legion Community House. The building, still standing today (Borough Police Headquarters), was dedicated as the Legion Community House in June 1940. About 1947, additional renovation work was done on the building, which was renamed "The War Memorial Building." In 1960 the American Legion Post deeded the War Memorial Building back to the borough, after which the building served as a borough hall until Allendale acquired the building on West Crescent Avenue in which the current municipal offices are located.

By 1940, an Auxiliary to the American Legion Post 204 had been formed, and Mrs. Dorothy Winters served as its president for a number of years.

Anthony Street

The portion of Brookside Avenue between West Crescent Avenue and Park Avenue was called, from about 1870, when Daniel Anthony moved to Allendale and lived in that vicinity, until well into the twentieth century, "Anthony Street." It is so noted on the map of Allendale in the 1876 Walker's Atlas.

Automobiles

By 1901, automobiles were causing concern in Allendale and adjoining villages. A newspaper clipping from 1901 warns: "The authorities should pass at once an ordinance regulating the speed of horseless carriages passing through the borough. The school house hill and the stretch of road near the M.E. Church on the main road, seems to be the favorite speeding place. Many of the vehicles rush along at a rate and with the noise that would put to shame an Erie express train. A lady and gentleman, whose name could not be ascertained at this writing, but who it is said came from Mahwah, were driving on Sunday near Dr. Badeau's when a locomobile came rushing along. The occupants must have noticed that the horse was frightened, but they never stopped or slackened up, but rushed on, causing the gentleman to lose control of his horse, which went into Dr. Badeau's gate, breaking down a part of the fence, damaging the carriage, and throwing the occupants out. That they were not seriously hurt was a matter of good fortune. The party in the locomobile never looked back but kept right on. Fortunately there are very few of this class on the roads, as usually when they see that a horse is frightened they slow down or stop."

Dr. Harry Archer and his wife were among the first to drive automobiles through Allendale. In June of 1902, it was reported that they had made "the run up from the city in a very short time."

Banks

The first known bank office in Allendale (excluding the Savings and Loans -- or "Building and Loans" as they were first called) was an office of The First National Bank of Ramsey, which was established in the store of William F. Kornhoff in February 1914. The office

accepted deposits on Mondays and Thursdays, between the hours of 2:30 and 3:45 p.m. Mr. Kornhoff, a member of the Allendale Board of Trade, was instrumental in bringing the bank office to Allendale, having offered the use of his store, rent-free, in order to make banking service available to Allendale residents. The branch was discontinued, however, when it was discovered that banking laws prohibited such a branch office.

In February of 1925, a charter was awarded for the establishment of The First National Bank of Allendale. A lot on the corner of West Allendale Avenue and Maple Street was purchased from Garret Winter, and on June 3, 1925, construction began on the new bank building. The Board of Directors for the bank included: Richard J. Christopher, President; John H. Ackerman, Perry W. Critchley, Jacob M. Christopher, and Herbert J. Winter, Vice-Presidents; and for Cashier, Edward Hamilton. Other Board members were: Henry N. Thurston, Malachi E. Higgins, John Yeomans, Frank Berdan, Silas E. Robinson, Walter R. Hudson, Walter W. Weber, and Peter Alberse. On December 19, 1925, the new bank opened for business and deposits for that first day amounted to approximately \$60,000.

In April 1938, five bandits with revolvers and submachine guns robbed the bank of approximately \$10,000. The thieves forced Cashier Edward Hamilton, other bank employees, and bank customers, at gunpoint, to lie down on the floor while they cleaned out cash drawers and the vault. The bank employees, Cashier Hamilton, Blanche Shudy, D. W. Frazer, Alwin Grossman, and Franklin Trinkner, as well as two customers, Mrs. Harry Osias and Julian J. Monte, were then locked in the vault. There, they managed to trigger an alarm which brought the police to the scene and resulted in their release from the vault.

(To be continued)

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

Compiler's Note: This alphabetical listing cannot be considered an all-inclusive list of prominent early 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 at hand 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.

Kipp, Henry

Born about 1851, he and his wife, Hester, and their family lived near Franklin Turnpike, near the site of today's Allendale Nursery. They worked as fruit, berry, and vegetable pickers for area farmers. Henry and Hester Kipp had children: Joanna Kipp, b. abt. 1866; Sarah E. Kipp, b. abt. 1868; John H. Kipp, b. abt. 1874; and Perletta Kipp, b. abt. 1879.

Knack, Henry J.

According to advertisements and invoices dated 1910-1911, he was a general contractor in Allendale. He was also an ice dealer, house mover, and road builder, and was an agent for the sale of wagons, sleighs, and wire fencing.

Knight, Mary

She is listed as a householder in the Allendale vicinity in the December 1780 Franklin Township Rateables. The name may also be found spelled "Knaght" and "Konnight."

Kornhoff, William F.

Born in Brooklyn, he was a descendant of one of the oldest families in Bergen County. He came to Allendale in the early 1900's, establishing, by 1903, a bakery near the railroad station. He was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Association and served as President of the Allendale Fire Department for six years. He served two terms on the Borough Council and was elected Mayor of Allendale, serving in 1925 and 1926. He was a charter member of the Allendale Board of Trade and was chairman of the Shade Tree Commission. He and his son, Lee Kornhoff, were both involved in real estate. William F. Kornhoff died in 1943.

Koster, Frederick

Born March 16, 1888, he was the son of Herman and Dorothea Koster. He moved, with his parents, from Hoboken to Saddle River. He married, on June 24, 1903, Ella Van Dien, daughter of Peter Westervelt Van Dien. They moved to Allendale about 1905-06. Fred and Ella Koster had a daughter, Evelyn Koster. Fred Koster was in the insurance business, from which he retired about 1939. He died in 1949.

Kraemer, Henry G.

He married, in 1900, Mary Elizabeth Ackerman, daughter of Richard Vanderbeek Ackerman and Caroline Ackerman. They had a daughter, Mildred Elizabeth Kraemer, who married Arthur G. Pepplewell. Henry G. Kraemer bought the house at 40 Hillside Avenue in 1929, and lived there until his death, sometime before March 10, 1960, when the property was sold by his executors to Anita P. Becker.

Krause, Albert F.

He served as station agent at the railroad depot from about 1893 until 1902. A number of area residents, in April 1902, presented Krause with a silver tureen and ladle as a token of their appreciation for his faithful service. On the tureen, reported The Ramsey Journal, on April 18, 1902, was engraved the following tribute: "Presented to A. F. Krause by the citizens of Allendale and Saddle River, April 1902." He and his wife, Tivilla J. Krause, had a daughter, Daisy Alice Krause, baptized at Archer Church June 16, 1894.

Labagh, Barney

He married, on Nov. 5, 1831, Eliza Van Cleve, and they had at least one child: John Hensy Labagh (the "Hensy" is probably an error in transcription; more likely, it should be "Henry"), born Jan. 2, 1833 and baptized May 19, 1833 at New Prospect M.E. Church (Waldwick).

Labagh, Forsyth

Son of John Isaac Labagh and Margaretta Forsyth, he was born March 20, 1807 at Hackensack and married, in 1836, Agnes Whitlock. They had children: John Isaac Labagh, b. 1836; William Osborn Labagh, b. 1838 in New York City; Agnes Labagh, b. abt. 1840; Abram Labagh, b. 1844 at Gravesend, L.I.; and Forsyth Labagh, b. 1846. The family was living in the Saddle River area in 1866 when either their son Forsyth, or daughter Agnes, or both, died. The Falls City Register (Paterson) reported,

on September 13, 1866, the death of the son, Forsyth, but other sources indicate that it was the daughter, Agnes, who died at this time.

Labagh, Hendrick

Born at Darmstadt, Germany in 1693, he married, in New York City on May 17, 1724, Elizabeth Lesser (Lescher) and they had children: Magdalena Labagh, b. 1725; Hendrick Labagh, b. 1726, m. 1754 at Schraalenburgh, Hester Dye (Day); Catherine Labagh, b. 1727; Jacob Labagh, b. 1730; Peter Labagh, b. 1731; Johannes Labagh, b. 1732; Isaac Labagh, b. 1734; Catrientje Labagh, b. 1737; and Abraham Labagh, b. 1739.

Labagh, Hendrick

Son of Hendrick Labagh and Elizabeth Lesser, he was born May 4, 1726 and baptized May 11, 1726, Dutch Church at New York City. He married, on August 22, 1754 at Schraalenburgh, Hester Dye (Day), daughter of _____ Dye and Louwerina Ackerman. They had at least one child: Hendrick Labagh, b. 1768, who married Thyna Spier.

Labagh, Henry (Hendrick)

Son of Hendrick Labagh and Hester Dye, he was born June 5, 1768 and married Thyna Spier. They had at least one child: James Labaugh, b. 1814, m. Catharine Terhune.

Labagh, Henry

A Henry Labagh was listed in the 1779 and 1780 Franklin Township Rateables list; it has not been determined which Henry Labagh this is. In 1779, he was listed as a householder with no acreage; by 1780 he was listed with 30 acres of improved land, 70 acres unimproved land, 1 "horned cattle," and 4 hogs. In 1781 a "Henry Laback" was one of the Roadmasters of Franklin Township.

Labagh, Johannes

He married, on May 19, 1727 at Hackensack, Rachel Meyer (Myer), daughter of Johannes (Jan) Meyer and Jannetje Banta. Rachel Meyer had been baptized April 1, 1705, New York Lutheran Church. They had at least two children: Catharine Labagh, baptized 1728; and Abraham Labagh, baptized 1734.

Labagh (Lawback), John

He married, March 30, 1822 at New Prospect, Margaret Van Houten, daughter of John H. Van Houten and Margaret Michler. Margaret Van Houten had been born December 15, 1799 and baptized Jan. 5, 1800 at New Prospect. They had children: Margaret Ellen Lawback, b. 1825, m. Garret G. Snyder (Snider); John Lawback, b. 1829; and Ann Eliza Lawback, b. abt. 1835, married Joseph Mallinson. The family is listed in the 1840 Franklin Township Federal Census, at which time husband, wife, and three children are listed. In the 1850 Hohokus Township Federal Census (by this time, Hohokus Township had been set off from Franklin Township), John Lawback, aged 49, Farmer, with real estate valued at \$2,500. is listed, along with his wife, Margaret, their daughter "Ann Eliza Maulderson" (Mallinson), aged 15, and their son-in-law, "Joseph Maulderson" (Mallinson), aged 20, Farmer, who had been born in England. By the time of the 1860 Hohokus Township Census, John Lauback and his wife, Margaret, were living with son-in-law (who was listed as "head of the household") and daughter, Joseph Mallinson and his wife, Ann E. In 1827, John Lawback was one of the signers of an application to establish a road in Franklin Township, apparently the easter-

ly continuation of Brookside Avenue from the Crescent Avenue intersection (Bergen Co. Road Return E-193). According to Van Valen, much of the land in Allendale was first owned by John Lawbaugh and Paul Van Houten, and "descended to their heirs, among whom were Joseph and Henry Mallinson. Paul Van Houten was killed in the War of 1812."

Lake, Abraham

Born about 1792, he married Margaret Van Sise, who had been born about 1796. They lived near Wyckoff, and had several children, among whom was Roseanna Lake, who married William Christopher. Abraham Lake died in or before 1863, and his wife, Margaret, died on November 25, 1876 at the home of her son-in-law, James H. Blauvelt.

Lane, Norman S.

Mayor of Allendale, 1972.

Lange, Herbert

Mayor of Allendale, 1969.

Lawrence, A. A.

In 1920, he was a Director of the Orvil Co-operative Building and Loan Association.

Lawrence, George I.

He married, on March 10, 1838, at New Prospect, Christina Ackerman, daughter of John A. Ackerman and Maria Terhune. He may be the same "George Lawrence" mentioned in the January 1811 petition for vacation of the road called "The Shunpike" (Bergen Co. Road Return D-239), which is described as running "over the lands of the following persons. . . Stephen Lawrence, Isaac Lawrence, George Lawrence. . ." Stephen Lawrence also signed the petition.

Leamon, Daniel A. ("Gus")

On October 23, 1889, he married Ida Weeks, daughter of Addison B. Weeks, and granddaughter of Col. Henry G. Ackerman. They had at least three children: Marion W. Leamon; Agnes C. Leamon; and Ralph Leamon. Ida Weeks Leamon died in 1941, in her 76th year, having been a life-long resident of Saddle River.

LeBarron, A. N.

He built a home in Allendale in 1903 and ran a business in general contracting and carting; a 1912 invoice for digging a well stated, "Moving a specialty."

LeBarron, Chester (LeBaron)

Born in Erwin, N.Y. about 1883, he was an auto mechanic and a mover. He was a charter inactive member of the Allendale Fire Association. Children included: Helen LeBarron, m. John Hoekstra; Chester LeBarron; Roy LeBarron; and Kenneth LeBarron.

Lee, Mary K.

From Nashville, Tennessee, she came to New York to study singing, which she gave up after her marriage to William C. Lee. About 1908, they bought property in Allendale, part of the Storms Estate, and built a "summer camp" house, a many-leveled, dark-beamed home, which they called Clovelly. When they moved permanently to Allendale, they added on to the house, filling it with antiques. Mrs. Lee and her husband devoted themselves to the Allendale Library. Mrs. Lee served as librarian for more than 30 years and the Lees donated, in the early 1940s,

the room called the Mary K. Lee room in the original library building on the corner of Franklin Turnpike and Allendale Avenue.

Lee, William C.

Born in Newark of English parents, he and his wife, Mary K. Lee, moved to Allendale sometime after purchasing land, near West Crescent Avenue and Beresford Road, from the Storms Estate, in 1908. The Lees had one son, Schuyler C. Lee, who served in World War I. Mr. Lee was a Vice-President of the Bankers Trust Company in New York. He served as organist of the Church of the Epiphany in Allendale for about 30 years, was Vice-President and Treasurer, at various times during the 1920s, of the Allendale Library Association, and in 1912 was Vice-President of the Allendale Fire Association. In 1910 he was a charter member of the Board of Trustees of the Allendale Fire Association. Mr. Lee died July 30, 1952.

Leech, H. B.

He was a charter inactive member of the Allendale Fire Association at its organization in 1910.

Legg, Albert

He purchased land from Alfred E. Ivers in 1894 on or near Franklin Turnpike and built a residence, into which he had moved by June 1895.

Letts, Richard Runyon

He married, on November 14, 1883, at Trinity Church, Hoboken, N.J., Sophie Agatha Frontgous, who had been born Jan. 13, 1863, the daughter of Pierre August Oliver Frontgous and Therese Gondran. R. R. Letts was a veterinarian, and he and his wife moved to Allendale about 1883. Dr. Letts was elected to the Allendale Board of Health, serving on the Board in 1899 and 1900, and perhaps longer.

(to be continued)

New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Drake IV, Allendale

Allendale Historical Society
Officers & Chairmen, 1980-81

President.....A. Marian Strangfeld
Vice President.....Jeanne Cotz
Secretary.....Dorothy Kornhoff
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Keating
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Newsletter Editor...Pat Wardell

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Individual Membership.....\$4.00

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Editor: Pat Wardell