

## ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

VOL. VIII

NOVEMBER 1981

No. 2

NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 7, 1981 at Borough Hall, Allendale.

COOKIES AND CHAMPAGNE WILL BE SERVED -- MERRY XMAS

PROGRAM: "Archeology and Historic Preservation in Northern New Jersey."

Jo Ann Cotz, a graduate N.Y.U. Anthropology student, will speak on archeology and historic preservation in our area. She has participated in many local excavations, including The Hermitage and the Van Dyne House, a site in Mahwah. She was also involved in the industrial archeology of the Paterson Mill area and is presently working on the iron works at Long Pond. Plan to attend this interesting meeting and bring friends, if you wish. All are welcome.

\* \* \* \* \*

ALLENDALE NOTES . . .

BITS AND PIECES OF ALLENDALE HISTORY

COMPILED BY PAT WARDELL

(Continued from the  
September 1981 issue)

### Bergen Guards

Formed about 1908, this was an organization of boys, something of a predecessor of the Boy Scouts. Harry I. Hand organized the group and led it throughout its existence. Under Captain Hand's leadership, the members of the Guard drilled and were instructed in parade drills and warfare. William Abbott, long-time Allendale resident, was interviewed in 1976 and recalled the group: "I was a member of the Bergen Guards. They were a group of boys--about two dozen--all teenagers, organized by Captain Harry Hand, drilled in marching, handling arms, and fundamental army tactics. They participated in many parades, and disbanded when the U.S. entered World War I. Many of the young men who enlisted found their Bergen Guards experience of great assistance, and some still live in Allendale. Captain Hand deserved a lot of credit for giving his time and energy to molding the boys into a well-trained organization."

Drills were conducted at the Allendale Fire House after its construction in 1913. Fancy drills, with the boys in full uniform, were open to the public, and were held the first Tuesday of the month at the Fire House. Dancing could be enjoyed after each meeting.

Two other "Bergen Guards" existed in Allendale at this time:

the Bergen Guards basketball team and the Bergen Guards ice hockey team, which played at Smith's Pond in 1911. These groups may have been part of the above described organization.

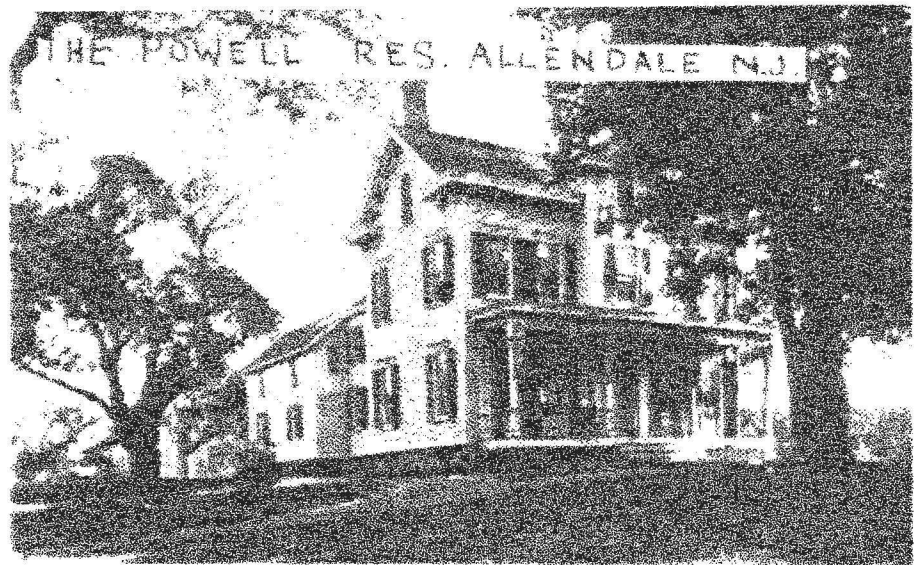
### Board of Health

The Allendale Board of Health was organized at a Borough Council meeting soon after the formation of Allendale as a borough. In 1896 Board of Health Commissioners were: S. W. Brainard, John A. Mallinson, Dr. Badeau, C. A. Merrill, and Martin Henion. In July 1897, a Board of Health was officially organized and has functioned since that time.

Over the years the Board has, among other duties, kept surveillance over various infectious diseases including, especially in the 1930s and 1940s, infantile paralysis. On September 28, 1933, the Ramsey Journal reported: "The special meeting of the Allendale Board of Health to consider two cases of contagious disease in the borough, was held in the municipal building on Tuesday night. . . The illness of Richard Mullaney, the infantile paralysis victim, was discussed. Inspector Newell reported that the case was light but inasmuch as there were four other children of pre-school age in the family, he was of the opinion that the child should be moved to Bergen Pines, as a precautionary measure. The full board was present, with President Harry I. Hand presiding and Health Inspector Doolittle in attendance. The board members were: William R. Lawrence, Eugene Stagemann, Mrs. James E. Webb, Mrs. William Preston Asten, and Robert Phair. After a lengthy discussion it was the opinion of the board that it was not necessary at present to close the schools but the general assembly in the morning will be discontinued and efforts made to avoid having the children congregate in groups."

### Boarding Houses

During the last half of the 19th century, Allendale became a well-known summer resort--a country haven to which countless city-dwellers flocked. During its heyday, from about 1875 to 1895, Allendale was called "the Newport of Bergen County." In the beginning, summer visitors either rented houses in Allendale or boarded with Allendale residents and farmers. Later, some of the larger homes were run, during the summer season, as boarding houses or hotels. In July 1878, The Hackensack Re-



*THE POWELL HOUSE (shown above) stood on the south side of East Allendale Ave. near the east corner of Powell Road. The Powell family lived in this house for over 125 years. The oldest part was probably built soon after The Revolution for John Powell and his wife, Klaasje Hopper. Henry Powell, probably the son of John and Klaasje, was living in the house by 1830. Henry's son, Peter G. Powell, married Maria Ackerman and their two daughters both ran boarding houses in Allendale. The old Powell homestead was razed in the mid-1930s.*

publican reported that "Messrs. Powell, Southwick and Cable have their houses filled with 'city boarders' and nearly every other house in the place entertains one or more guests." Several large homes on East Allendale Avenue were summer boarding houses. Among Allendale's better-known boarding houses were: The Powell House (run by Miss Elizabeth Powell); The Lennox House (the Switzer House at 100 East Allendale Avenue, also run--during the "off" season-- as a private school by Miss Patton); The Hotel Windsor (run by Mrs. Asten); and The Albermarle Hotel (run by Mrs. Catherine Harris.) Diversions were many and bucolic: in 1902 The Ramsey Journal reported that "a wagon load of boarders from Mrs. Asten's spent Saturday at Ramapo Lake."

### Boy Scouts in Allendale

Boy Scouting in Allendale began in 1917, when the Reverend Charles Woodruff of Archer Memorial Church, assisted by Willard Alling, Arthur Tomalin, Harry Hart, Alfred E. Atkinson and Robert A. Phair, formed Allendale's first troop, known as Troop I. Charter members of the troop were Leon Kornhoff, Ray Scholz, William Buhlman, Floyd Vanderbeck and Otto Vanderbeck. One of their first service projects, during World War I, was the collection of papers for the benefit of the North Bergen Ambulance Fund.

Allendale was made a member of the North Bergen County Council in 1920 and the troop number was changed from I to 59. In 1920 the scouts, under the management of R. J. Christopher, Louis Jones, H. E. Watson, Arthur Tomalin, Van Rensselaer Wall, and Scoutmaster Harry Hart, numbered 35 boys.

Scoutmasters of Troop 59, over the years, include: Robert A. Phair (1917-1919); Harry C. Hart (1919-1921); Daniel L. Dargue (1923-1924); Walter R. Hillman (1924-1927); Jonas C. McClain (1927-1928); Walter Hillman (1928-1930); George R. Price (1930-1931); Frederick L. Savage (1931-1932); Harry L. Lampa (1932-1933); George R. Price (1933-1934); Elwood T. Critchley (1934-1936); Arthur B. Albert (1936-1941); William B. Buhlman (1941-1946); David Kaplan (1946-1947); Harvey Beswick (1947-1948); William Buhlman (1948-1950); Robert Simpson (1950-1951); William Buhlman (1951-1953); Don Anderson (1953-1955); Frank McCord (1955-1956); Edward Cook (1956-1957); W. James Hall (1956-1957); Thomas Mobraey (1957-1958); Frank P. Hoffman (1958-1959); Robert Turner (1959-1966); John Cebak (1966-present).

A more complete history of Troop 59 can be found in "A History of Archer Memorial Methodist Church, 1876-1966," pp. 101-104.

### Brabant

Perhaps named for the province of that name in The Netherlands, Brabant (also found spelled "Braband" and "Browbent") was a locality in the vicinity of southwestern Ramsey (Youngs road area) and the Fardale section of Mahwah. "Braband is used as early as March 30, 1730, when the locality was cited in a deed from Lucas Kierstede to Evert Van Zeyl, and as late as 1835, when Hillside Avenue in Allendale is labeled on a Road Return map as the "road to Browbent."

(to be continued)

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>W. H. Packer,</b><br/>CARRIAGE REPOSITORY.<br/>SADDLE RIVER, N. J.</p> | <p><b>John McPeck,</b><br/>BLACKSMITH<br/>GENERAL JOBBING.<br/>Hoese Shoring a Specialty. All Work<br/>Guaranteed. RAMSEY, N. J.</p> | <p><b>J. G. &amp; A. Esler,</b><br/>FLORIST.<br/>Artistic Floral Designs.<br/>SADDLE RIVER, N. J.</p> |
|--|--|---|

Advertisements from  
The Allendale Methodist  
Herald, August 1903.



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

Mansfield, Henry J.

Henry J. Mansfield came to Allendale early in 1892 to run the hotel, then called "The Allendale House." He applied to the court in Hackensack in September 1892 for a liquor license, which was granted in December of that year. His application for the license created quite a stir in Allendale, with "pro" and "con" groups circulating petitions for and against the license. After the license was granted, The Ramsey Journal reported: "The little tin sign, which reads 'Hinschliffe's Lager' appears to have taken all the charm and romance out of our pleasant little town and a number of good citizens have signified their intention of moving away in the spring. It is said that they will locate at Secaucus, that being the only village on the 'pictureque Erie' unpolluted by a gin mill." Mansfield moved from Allendale to Bayonne in 1895.

May, Charles

"Charlie" May ran a general store in Allendale near Sherwood & Tallman's Hotel, prior to 1869. The store was said to have been fitted out with a bar in one corner, and was a favorite gathering spot for farm workers, especially during the strawberry season. The 1850 Federal Census listed a Charles May living in the Allendale area who may have been the same May who later ran the general store: according to the 1850 census, Charles May, born about 1822, was a blacksmith. He and his wife Mary had at least three children: Elizabeth May, born about 1844; John J. May, born about 1846; and Lewis H. May, born about 1848.

Megnin, George E.

Born in France, he married there, in September 1891, his wife Marie. They moved to the Bronx, where he was a carpet and wall-paper designer. In 1915 the Megnins, with their children, moved to Allendale and lived in the house at 168 West Crescent Avenue (today's Ramapo Gate Inn). They had children: Pierre Megnin; Charles Megnin; Edward Megnin; Eugene Megnin, born in France June 25, 1894; Frank ("Barney") Megnin, born about 1900; George W. Megnin; and Marie Megnin, married V. A. O'Neill.

Mensching, George

George Mensching ran a stationery-confectionery store in Allendale circa 1910.

Merrill, Ambrose K.

The son of Ambrose K. and Caroline Merrill, he was born April 14, 1879 in New York City and died in May 1954 in Rhode Island. He was a member of the Allendale Board of Health in 1916, Treasurer of the Allendale Christmas Tree Association in 1917 and was, for a number of years, a director of The Allendale Building & Loan Association. He retired about 1946 after 45 years with the United States Steel Company. He and his wife Lois lived on East Orchard Street until about 1948.

Merrill, Charles R.

He and his wife, Elizabeth Millbank Wall, first lived in New York City, but began to summer in Allendale about 1864-65. In 1885, they built a permanent year-round home on West Crescent Avenue in Allendale. They had children: Frank S. Merrill and William Wall Merrill. Charles R. Merrill was appointed Board of Health Commissioner by the Borough Council in 1896.

Merrill, Francis (Frank) S.

The son of Charles R. Merrill and Elizabeth Millbank Wall, he was born August 15, 1864 in New York City and summered, with his parents, in Allendale throughout his childhood. He graduated from Swarthmore College and was employed by the Manhattan Railroad Company for 30 years. In January 1894 he married, as his first wife, Cecilia Louise Patton, who in 1901 was one of the founders of the Allendale Library. After the death of his first wife, he married, in 1937, Harriet T. Young. Frank Merrill died in October 1955.

Merrill, William Wall

The son of Charles R. Merrill and Elizabeth Millbank Wall, he was born in Allendale in 1867. After graduation from Dartmouth, he was employed by the United States Steel Company, and in 1915 he married Ella Sanford. He was appointed to the Entertainment Committee of The Village Improvement Association in December 1891, and served on the Shade Tree Commission until he was transferred, in 1918, to Pittsburgh, Pa. He died in 1931.

Moellhausen, Rene

Born about 1870-71 in Smyrna, Turkey, of French parentage, he married Alice Clancy, lived in France for 3 years, and moved to Allendale about 1907. Moellhausen was President of The Cork Trading Corporation of New York City. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Allendale Fire Association in 1910, Treasurer of the Association from 1911-1914, and was a charter member of the organization. He and his wife had one daughter: Grace Moellhausen. Mr. Moellhausen died in January 1940.

Moore, John H.

Born about 1815-20, J. H. Moore was a Black musician, known locally as "Yan the Fiddler." He played his fiddle at parties and entertainments locally in Allendale, Saddle River, and vicinity, from about 1840 or earlier until about 1880 or later. A store belonging to him, used to sell cigars in Waldwick, was destroyed by fire in December 1890. He played at a party held in Allendale by Hattie Ackerman in 1877, described by The Bergen County Democrat: "Our venerable friend, Yan Moore, furnished the music in his happiest manner, and the joyous feet of the dancers kept gentle time in the mazes of the lancers, quadrille, waltz, etc. We must not omit to mention the clog dance which was performed by Yan, with great good nature, at the request of the young people." "Yan" Moore died February 16, 1893.

Mowerson, Andrew J.

Born on December 21, 1874 in Ramsey, the son of James P. Mowerson and Catherine Young, he was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Association. He never married. A. J. Mowerson died at his home on Myrtle Avenue on December 22, 1936.

Mowerson, David

The son of Peter Mowerson and Katherine Valentine, he was born on January 25, 1856 and died October 22, 1929. He married (1) at Allendale, April 3, 1879, Susan Rebecca Van Blarcom, daughter of John L. Van Blarcom and Hester Winters. She died in 1885, and

David Mowerson married (2) Mary Jane Voorhis, daughter of William Voorhis and Elizabeth Winters. David Mowerson had children: Kittie Mowerson, died 1900; and William Mowerson.

Mowerson, James P.

The son of Peter P. Mowerson and Catherine Valentine, he was born December 24, 1845. He married Catherine R. Young, daughter of James H. Young and Lavinia Christpher. They lived on Myrtle Avenue in Allendale. They had children: James Young Mowerson, b. 1866, m. Mamie Ackerson; Ella Mowerson, b. 1868, m. \_\_\_\_\_ Hilbert; and Andrew J. Mowerson, b. 1874. James P. Mowerson died July 4, 1923.

Mowerson, James Young

Born on September 13, 1866, the son of James P. Mowerson and Catherine R. Young, he died at his home on Myrtle Avenue January 14, 1940. He married Mamie Ackerson and they had a son: Andrew J. Mowerson. James Y. Mowerson was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Association.

Mowerson, John

The son of Albert Mowerson and Sarah Jane Eckerson, he was born October 20, 1880 and died in September 1947. He married Emma Storms, the daughter of John A. Storms, and they had a son, Kenneth J. Mowerson. John Mowerson operated a dairy business. He was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Association and was secretary of the Association from 1911-1914.

McDermott, Michael Thomas

The son of John McDermott and Catherine Winters, he was born April 12, 1858 in Cohecton, N.Y. He married, at Callicoon, N.Y. on January 20, 1886, Elizabeth Hare of Susquehanna, Pa. Michael McDermott began working for the Erie Railroad in 1872, and retired in October 1928 after 56 years with the railroad. He served as station agent at Allendale from 1902 until his retirement. Michael and Elizabeth McDermott had children: John L. McDermott, killed in action in World War I; Agnes McDermott, m. Theodore H. Blackmore; Loretta McDermott, m. \_\_\_\_\_ Driscoll; Mary McDermott, m. \_\_\_\_\_ Spicher; and Catherine McDermott, m. Maurice P. Lonergan. Michael McDermott died in March 1939.

Nadler, Gustave

Born in Germany in 1864, he came to America as a young man and at the age of 21 opened an ice cream and confectionery business on Main Street in Paterson, from which he retired in 1927. He and his wife, Marie, were married in Paterson on April 13, 1884 and moved with their family to Allendale in 1892, settling in a house on Franklin Turnpike purchased from J. Alfred Ackerman. He was active in civic affairs in Allendale and served as Mayor of Allendale from 1914 to 1918. The Nadlers had four children: a son who died in 1897 of injuries sustained after being accidentally hit by a baseball bat; Gustave Nadler, Jr., killed in action during World War I; a daughter who married William Meader; and a daughter who married Frank Arnold. Gustave Nadler died May 26, 1939.

Naugle, John D.

In 1885, John D. Naugle bought the building originally erected by Herman Tallman as a hotel. This hotel was probably near, but not on the site of today's Allendale Hotel. Naugle either tore down the old hotel building and rebuilt on the site, or extensively remodeled the existing building. He and his family summered in Allendale until about 1892.

(to be continued)

Program, reduced in size, of the pageant, "Life of George Washington" sponsored by The Holiday Observers in 1932.

**The Holiday Observers  
1932**

WILLARD ALLING  
CASPAR KORNDORFER  
W. G. Z. CRITCHLEY  
JOHN G. HUBBARD

Fred C. Cotts  
Harry Doolittle  
Russel Mallinson

Herbert Flandreau  
William Kastenhuber  
Clifford C. West

J. Berkeley Hunter  
Dr. H. M. Lampe  
Frederick Weis

President  
Vice-President  
Treasurer  
Secretary

**PAGEANT COMMITTEE**

CHAIRMAN  
DIRECTOR  
ASST. DIRECTOR  
NARRATOR  
MUSIC

Willard Alling  
Cress M. Gordon  
Edward Higgins  
John Wenzel  
Maude Feldman  
Caroline Stearns  
Harold Bayles

Irene Hunter  
Harry I. Hand  
Minuet coached by LORRAINE FISHER  
Costumes by FRED J. WUSTL

THE holiday observers takes this opportunity to thank the members of the Pageant Committee, the Clubs and Organizations of Allendale and the people who so kindly gave of their time and effort to make this celebration a success. This pageant inaugurates Allendale's George Washington Bicentennial Celebration Program. From time to time until Thanksgiving Day when the bicentennial officially terminates there will be other entertainments by clubs and organizations commemorating this event.

**Allendale  
George Washington  
Bicentennial Celebration**

Presented by  
**The Holiday Observers**  
AND ALL ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS OF ALLENDALE



MONDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 22nd, 1932

AT THE  
**ALLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
8:30 P. M.

**Program**

- I Assembly Boy Scouts
- II Salute To The Flag Audience
- III America's Creed Audience
- IV America Audience

**Pageant**

**LIFE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON**  
In 12 Episodes

- Episode 1** The Birth of Washington. Shadows
- Episode 2** The Cherry Tree.  
David M. Colburn and David Colburn Jr.
- Episode 3** Washington and His Mother.  
Stewart and Martha Billhardt
- Episode 4** Washington The Surveyor John Doty
- Episode 5** The Marriage Of Washington.  
George Washington Elwood Critchley  
Martha Custis Washington Marion Simonson
- Children  
Martha Custis Wilma Abbott  
Jack Custis Patricia Peardon
- Attendants  
William Anderson Mary Higgins  
Clergyman J. Berkeley Hunter
- GUESTS**  
Edith Rahmer Hazel Lightbody  
Mdm. Frambach Sadie Semler  
Evelyn Simpson Clifford C. West  
Beatrice Springstead Harriet Higgins  
Margery Mowerson Elaie Rosner  
William Kastenhuber Fred Weis  
Laura Hubbard Ethel Mallinson  
and others

**Program - continued**

- Episode 6** The Quilting Party.  
Beth Lightbody Henrietta Talsman  
Edna Ackerman Florence Forbes  
Margery Griffiths Tilda Linka  
Margery Forster  
Marguerite Farrell  
Jessie Whitaker
- Episode 7** Signing The Declaration of Independence.  
Edward Kent Harold Bayles  
John G. Hubbard Charles Koman
- Episode 8** The First Flag.  
J. M. Christopher "Billie" Aston  
Russel Mallinson Fred Weis
- Episode 9** Washington At Valley Forge.  
J. M. Christopher
- Episode 10** "Molly" Pitcher At Monmouth.  
Clara Flandreau
- Episode 11** Cornwallis Surrenders.  
Herbert Flandreau John Taylor  
J. M. Christopher
- Episode 12** The Inauguration.  
J. M. Christopher  
Dr. C. H. Von Glahn Edward Kent  
Clifford C. West William Kastenhuber  
John G. Hubbard

ALLENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT...RECORDS OF EARLY CALLS TO FIRES (ABSTRACTED)

(continued from the September 1981 issue)

- June 11, 1913--alarm 1-7, Allendale; house of Capputi; damage \$200.00; left fire house 6:50 a.m., returned 7:35 a.m. Used Mr. Knack's horses.
- July 31, 1913--alarm 3-6, Allendale; house of Mr. Adams; damage trifling; left fire house 1:30 p.m., returned 1:55 p.m. Used Mr. Christopher's horses.
- December 27, 1913--alarm 2-7, Allendale; house of R. J. Christopher, Sr.; chimney fire, no damage; left fire house 2:10 p.m., returned 2:50 p.m. Pulled truck.
- April 3, 1914--alarm 3-5, Allendale; Mayor Nadler's barn; total loss; left fire house 5:35 a.m., returned 7:00 a.m. Used Mr. Brennan's horses.
- April 3, 1914--alarm 3-5, Allendale; false alarm--supposed to be Mr. C. F. Smith's house; left fire house 7:20 p.m., returned 7:50 p.m. Used Mr. Brennan's horses.
- July 4, 1914--alarm 1-4, Allendale; house of John H. Ackerman; damage \$20.00; left fire house 9:50 p.m., returned 10:45 p.m. Pulled truck.
- October 22, 1914--alarm 1-4, Allendale; brush fire, Moellhausen's. Used Mr. Brennan's horses.
- November 3, 1914--Allendale; brush fire, Mr. Hutches. Used Coates & Strunk's horses.
- November 17, 1914--Allendale; brush fire, Mrs. C. Smith's. Used Brennan's auto.
- March 17, 1915--still alarm, Allendale; Mr. Dutton phones; brush fire, property of Mr. Parigot; left fire house 11:30 a.m., returned 12:00. Used auto truck, Chief Braun driving.
- March 21, 1915--alarm 1-7, Allendale; brush fire, Bramhall's property; left 11:45 a.m., returned 12:15 p.m. Used auto, Kornhoff driving.
- March 25, 1915--alarm 2-5, Allendale; brush fire, McNelley property; left 12:50 p.m., returned 1:25 p.m. Used auto, Kornhoff driving.
- March 25, 1915--alarm 2-5, Allendale; brush fire, Gousset's property; left 4:00 p.m., returned 5:20 p.m. Used auto, Chief Braun driving.
- March 25, 1915--alarm 2-6, Allendale; barn, DeHossen property; damage \$25.00; left 9:20 p.m., returned 10:25 p.m. Used auto, Kornhoff driving.

(to be continued)

Allendale Historical Society  
Officers & Chairmen, 1980-1981

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

President.....A. Marian Strangfeld  
Vice President.....Jeanne Cotz  
Secretary.....Dorothy Kornhoff  
Treasurers.....Schuyler & Geneva  
Keating  
Trustees.....Shirley Cross, Eugene  
Webb, Natalie Holeman  
Publicity Chm.....Lucie Kirylak  
Membership Chm.....Annette Baum  
Curator/Librarian...Marion & George  
Schwack  
Newsletter Editor...Pat Wardell

Membership Categories: (Annual Dues)  
Family Membership.....\$6.00  
Individual Membership.....\$4.00

Newsletter Distribution: Dorothy Kornhoff, Eva Schmitt and any willing volunteers.