



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 1, 1982 at Borough Hall, Allendale. AT 8:30 P.M.

PROGRAM: Dr. Herbert Millington of Upper Saddle River, a retired history professor, will show a film, "Root of the Revolution." He has produced this film, and many others, himself. Come to this meeting and bring a friend. All are welcome.

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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 and 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 before 1900, but there are a few exceptions for those with unusual or outstanding accomplishments or lengthy and dedicated service to Allendale.

Newman, Robert I.

Born in St. Louis, Mo., he attended George Washington University and graduated as a chemical engineer from Tufts College. He served as Mayor of Allendale from 1959-1966.

Nightengale, Powlis

Born about 1840, he lived with his family on the road between Allendale and Saddle River at the time of the 1880 Federal Census. He and his wife Mina had children: Adrian, born about 1865; Linus, born about 1868; Emma, born about 1874; and Lindy (or Lucy) born about 1879. Powlis Nightengale died in June 1891. His wife, Mina, moved in Oct. 1900 to Minnesota, where her sister lived, and died there soon after her arrival.

Nimmo, George P.

The son of Robert L. and Susan H. Nimmo, he served as Bergen County's Sheriff in the 1920s. In 1923, he proposed to area residents and the Borough Council the establishment of a local Ambulance Corps, to service Allendale and the surrounding communities. He suggested that an ambulance be stationed in Allendale's Fire

House. Apparently no action was taken on his proposal, and Allendale waited nearly 15 years, until 1937, for the organization of an Ambulance Corps. George P. Nimmo died on May 21, 1927.

Nimmo, Robert L.

He served as Allendale's first Borough Clerk in 1894. He and his wife, Susan H., had at least three children: George P. Nimmo; Frank Nimmo (who died in January 1979 in Florida at the age of 89); and Dorothy Nimmo. The Nimmos were active members of the Archer Memorial Methodist Church. Mrs. Nimmo served as President of the Ladies Aid Society of the church in 1903-04. Mr. Nimmo edited The Allendale Methodist Herald, a souvenir newspaper published by the church in 1903 to publicize and promote the fair held at Archer Hall on August 12th and 13th, 1903.

Oblenis, Andrew J.

Born about 1828, he married, as his first wife, Caroline Hennion, and they had children: Angeline Oblenis; John Oblenis, born about 1859; George Oblenis, born about 1862; Maxwell Oblenis, born about 1865; and Henry Oblenis, born about 1868. He married, as his second wife, Ellen Storms, widow of Gary Storms. They lived in the Old Toll Gate House at the intersection of Franklin Turnpike and Crescent Avenue, where they ran a small variety store.

Oldis, Benjamin

Born in 1710, by 1762 he and his wife, Neeltje, were living in what was to become Allendale, somewhere in the vicinity of Wolf Swamp and Franklin Turnpike (near what was later the celery farm). Their children, baptized at Paramus Church, were: Hendrik Oldis, baptized February 25, 1741; Hannes Oldis, baptized February 6, 1743; Gerrit Oldis, baptized July 28, 1754 (married (1) Rebecca Hoogland; married (2) Elizabeth Van Horn, widow of Anthony Van Blarcom and Peter A. Hopper); Sara Oldis, baptized May 9, 1756; and Maria Oldis, baptized August 25, 1751. Benjamin Oldis died November 11, 1791 and was buried in the Paramus Churchyard.

Oldis, Hendrick

The son of Benjamin and Neeltje Oldis, he was baptized February 25, 1741 at Paramus. He married Marytje (probably surnamed Hopper) and they had children, baptized at Paramus Church: Marytie Oldis, baptized September 27, 1767; Johannes Oldis, baptized May 30, 1773; and Tryntje Oldis, baptized April 5, 1779.

O'Neill, Charles Henry

The son of Charles O'Neill and Margaret Carrigan, he was born September 15, 1829 at Paterson and married Margaret Agnew, daughter of Patrick Agnew and Jane Fielton. He moved from Paterson to Jersey City about 1855, starting a lumber and building materials business on the corner of Hudson and Grand Streets. His business was enormously successful, and he later became Mayor of Jersey City. In February 1868 he bought from Dennis and Mary J. Higgins the property and house at what is today 168 West Crescent Avenue (The Ramapo Gate Inn) and he and his family began spending summers in Allendale at their new home, which they named "Solid Comfort." Charles Henry O'Neill and Margaret Agnew had children: Mamie O'Neill (married, in 1887, George Mulgrove); Angie O'Neill; Grace O'Neill (married Mr. Kell); Louis O'Neill; and Frank O'Neill.

Parigot, Charles L.

Born in Bahia, Brazil about 1846, he moved from Yonkers to Allendale in 1884 and lived here until his death in August 1917. He was

elected a Trustee of the Orvil Co-operative Building and Loan Association in April 1889, and served as a Borough Councilman on Allendale's first council, elected in 1894. He was interested in the Bergen Guards and attended and participated in the group's drills and hikes. He was a charter inactive member of the Allendale Fire Association. He and his wife had a son, George W. Parigot. The family lived first in the house at 146 Park Avenue, and later on East Allendale Avenue.

Parigot, George W.

The son of Charles L. Parigot, he ran a real estate business, begun in 1894, in Allendale and was very active in local civic and social organizations. He served on the Allendale Borough Council and was a member, in 1916, of the Allendale Board of Health. He was active in the Allendale Fire Association and served as Treasurer, in 1924, of the Allendale Library Association. He was a member of the Allendale Players and had roles in several of their productions. He also had financial interests, serving as a Director and later Vice President of the Orvil Co-operative Building and Loan Association and Director of the First National Bank and Trust Company of Ramsey, a position he held at the time of his death. He never married, and in December 1929, reportedly despondent over stock market losses, he shot and killed himself.

Parkhurst, Dr. G. H.

A homeopathic physician, Dr. Parkhurst, with his wife and two daughters, moved to Allendale in 1900, living first in the house at 146 Park Avenue, which they leased from Charles L. Parigot. About 1903, they built the home at 50 West Maple Street. Dr. Parkhurst married Mary Ward Sloat, daughter of Jacob Sloat and Sarah Biglow Hollenbeck, and they had two daughters: Mary S. Parkhurst; and Martha J. Parkhurst, both of whom were active in civic affairs in Allendale. Mary S. Parkhurst, among other activities, was a member of the music committee of the Allendale Christmas Tree Association in 1917, and was secretary of the Allendale Library Committee of the Village Improvement Association. Martha J. Parkhurst served on the Allendale Borough Council in the mid-1920s, and in 1924 was nominated as a Republican candidate for Mayor (but lost the primary).

Patton, Arthur de Zouch

Born in Pittsburgh July 27, 1872, the son of Samuel and Cecelia de Zouch Patton, he came to Allendale as a young man, perhaps as early as 1885, and was a member of The Village Improvement Association, being appointed to the Association's committee on entertainment in December 1892. He was a member of the Naval Reserve and served in the Spanish-American War. He married, September 9, 1903 in Ho-Ho-Kus, Lucy Williams Hawes, and they had a daughter: Cecelia Patton (married Alvah E. Reed). Mr. Patton was in the publishing field, and for 40 years was associated with The Rudder Publishing Company, in New York, publisher of "The Rudder," a yachting magazine. The Pattons moved to Ridgewood in the early 1900s, where Arthur de Z. Patton died, at the age of 89, in October 1961.

Patton, Florence de Zouch

Probably the daughter of Samuel and Cecelia de Zouch Patton (and sister of Arthur de Z. Patton, above), she was living in Allendale by 1885 when she opened a private school. She leased the Switzer home at 100 East Allendale Avenue, where for seven years she conducted a boarding and day school called The Lenox Seminary. In

1893 she moved her private academy to Ridgewood in a building on the corner of Spring and Maple Avenues.

Pickens, David

He and his family moved to Allendale in the 1880s and he soon became active in local affairs. In March 1889 he was elected secretary of the Orvil Co-operative Building and Loan Association, and served for at least two years as secretary of the Village Improvement Association. He moved to Scranton, Pennsylvania in 1894.

Pittis, Dr. Godfrey

The son of Thomas and Henrietta Pittis, he was born July 5, 1874 in Plainfield, one of a family of 10 boys and 1 girl. He graduated in 1896 from Dartmouth Medical School and interned at Willard State Hospital in Geneva, N.Y. He came to Allendale and established a medical practice here on May 27, 1898. He remained in private practice in Allendale until 1917. During World War I he served in the Emergency Fleet. Upon his return to Allendale, he retired from active medical practice. He married Maude Grey, and both he and his wife were active in the Masons. Mrs. Pittis served on the Allendale Borough Council. She died in 1954, and Dr. Pittis died in April 1965.

Pollock, William W.

William W. Pollock and his wife, Cora L. Tomkins, came to Allendale in the early 1900s and lived on Brookside Avenue. Mr. Pollock was a newspaperman, having founded and owned The Jersey Observer. He also served as editor of The Argus for four years. He was clerk of the Allendale Board of Health, in 1929 was elected a member of the Allendale Library Association, and served as Allendale's Borough Clerk for four years.

Powell, Henry

Probably the son of John and Claasje Powell, he was born January 7, 1792. He lived in the old Powell homestead, which stood on the corner of East Allendale Avenue and Powell Road until it was razed in the mid-1930s. Part of the house was said to have been built in the late 1700s, probably by Henry's father. Henry Powell was a farmer, and among his crops were strawberries, a fruit grown by almost all of Allendale's farmers in the last half of the 19th century. Records show that Henry Powell and his son, Peter G. Powell, in 1856 consigned their strawberry crop to John J. Storms of Park Ridge, a commission agent who ran a wholesale fruit and vegetable business in New York City. Henry Powell and his wife, Catherine, had children: John Powell, born 1817, died 1849; Peter G. Powell, baptized February 13, 1820 at New Prospect M. E. Church (Waldwick), married Maria Ackerman; Maria (or Maryann) Powell, baptized June 2, 1822 at New Prospect, married Garret G. Ackerman; and Henry Powell, born 1830, died 1835,

Powell, John

Born about 1770, he married Claasje, whose surname was probably Hopper. She was probably the daughter of Hendrick and Jacomyntje Hopper. John and Claasje Powell were probably the first inhabitants of the old Powell homestead in Allendale (see above) and they had children: Hendrick (Henry) Powell, born January 7, 1792, baptized February 26, 1792 at Paramus Church; Teunis Powell, born April 15, 1794, baptized May 1794 at Paramus; Maria Powell, born April 8, 1797, baptized June 4, 1797 at Paramus; Rebecca Powell, born March 8, 1805, baptized April 17, 1805 at Paramus; and Elizabeth Powell, born July 15, 1809, baptized October 9, 1809 at New Prospect.

Powell, Peter G.

The son of Henry and Catherine Powell, he was born in 1819 or 1820 and baptized February 13, 1820 at New Prospect (Waldwick). He married, at New Prospect, on April 28, 1852, Maria Ackerman. They had children: Catherine Powell, born about 1855, married Alfred Harris; Elizabeth Powell, born about 1858; and Edward Everett Powell, born about 1863, died 1893. Peter, like his father, was a farmer. A Hohokus Township tax bill for 1869 (Allendale was then a part of Hohokus Township) indicated that Peter G. Powell owned a total of 57 acres of land (with two houses on it), and owed a total tax of \$43.37 for the year. This included state tax, county tax, township tax, school tax, road tax, poll tax, and dog tax. Peter G. Powell died November 15, 1892 and his widow, Maria, died in April 1910.

(to be continued)

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From The Ramsey Journal, Thursday, March 29, 1923:

ALLENDALE RADIO CLUB HELD SHOW

In Borough Hall Last Friday Night -- It Proved to Be a Highly Successful Affair

The Allendale Radio Club held its first show in the Borough Hall last Friday night. It Proved to be a highly successful affair. Not only were there a great many exhibits, but the show was visited by several hundred people who manifested a great interest in the initial effort of this young organization.

Both the Senior and Junior Chapters of the Club, the latter composed of the younger members, had very attractive booths, one at each end of the hall. The Ramapo Valley Radio Club has an especially attractive exhibit of its own, and there were commercial exhibits by E. C. Cobb of Ridgewood, consisting of several complete sets and parts, and also an exhibit of special apparatus by the Pansin Engineering Company.

Judging in the several classes consumed a considerable portion of the evening, the judges being Mr. Bohr, a well-known radio engineer, who was Chairman; Mr. Arthur Falk, Mr. Oliver Asten, Mr. Clark, well-known amateur radio expert, and B. F. Hutches Jr.

The silver cup for the best set assembled by an amateur was awarded to Preston Asten who had a remarkably fine set. The prize was awarded based on neatness of workmanship, hook-up, results accomplished, etc.

The judges awarded the following ribbons:

Class A. Crystal Sets--First, B. Morss; Second, F. Buechner; Third, P. Tomalin.

Class B. One Bulb Sets--First, F. Meyer; Second, W. Laverty; Third, W. McDowell.

Class C. Two Bulb Sets--First, Fred Rose; Second, Kenneth Mowerson; Third, Carroll Varey.

Class D. Three Bulb Sets--First, Carroll Varey; Second, Robert Cockcroft; Third, Leon Kornhoff.

Class E. Over Three Bulbs--First, Preston Asten; Second, Lodowick Rossner; Third, Paul Tomalin.

Class G. Manufactured Sets--First, Vincent Gibbons; Second, R. LeBaron; Third, no award.

Class H. Freaks--First, F. Meyers; Second, L. Rossner; Third, Paul Tomalin.

In addition to the ribbon prizes there was a series of special awards made up of parts donated by one of the judges, Mr. Bohr, for various excellent features in the different sets. There were at least a dozen of these special awards, and some of the prizes were of costly parts.

The Committee in charge of the show consisted of Paul Tomalin, Chairman; Lodowick Rossner, Carroll Varey, Dean Jackson, William Hanson, N. White, George Christopher and Kenneth Mowerson.

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PASTIMES IN TIMES PAST

From The Ramsey Journal, January 19, 1900:

Last Monday evening "The Grand Concert and Moving Picture Co." exhibited in Wyckoff Hall. The attendance was small. It should have been ten times as big. But that was not the fault of the performance or of the performers. A thing so fine as that was, deserves the largest patronage possible. The stereopticon views were especially fine and the talking and singing machine was the very best up to date. It did not remind us, as some have done, of a frying pan in which a dozen sausages more or less were spluttering and sputtering, each one doing evidently his very best for the supremacy in ear splitting noise, leaving the hearer only to guess at what was said or sung. Those that stayed away, missed it.

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

(Continued from the
November 1981 issue)

Brookside Park Swim Club

An article in The Ramsey Journal on May 19, 1955 described Brookside Park Swim Club as follows: ". . .the newest swimming area in town is known as Brookside Park, entered from the west end of Brookside Avenue. This pool is actually in Mahwah, but the road enters from Allendale. Here 17 acres of land provide a lovely spot for summer fun including about 3 or 4 acres of water. It is operated by the Arthur Reyners, and Mrs. Reyner tells us that the pool is spring fed, with a sandy bottom, and purified with chlorination. At Brookside Park there are picnic benches, lockers, showers, lavatories, plus a diving board and various types of children's play equipment. Mrs. Reyner is particularly proud of a little island in the center of the pool on which a weeping willow is growing."

Camp Ground

Camp meetings, church gatherings, picnics and other social affairs were held from about 1825 or earlier until at least 1860 at A. Ackerman's camp ground, on or near Franklin Turnpike, close to the present Waldwick border, about half a mile from the train station at Allendale.

Celery Farm

The area that Allendale residents have come to call "The Celery Farm" was farmed by Henry J. Appert, who began buying parcels of the acreage in 1888. The swampy area was reported to have been the site

of a lake, around which Indians camped, probably in the 1600s and into the 1700s, until the area was settled by white men. Indian artifacts discovered on the site lend credence to the story, and the site is labeled, on maps drawn at the time of the Revolution, as "Wolf Swamp."

Later, beginning about 1866, peat was mined on the site. By the time Henry J. Appert bought the property, it was overgrown with thick brush and trees. He spent nearly two years clearing the land for farming and preparing drainage fields before he planted his first crop of onions.

Improvements were made to the farm over the years, and the crops changed to primarily celery and lettuce. A hydraulic irrigation system was installed, greenhouses for raising seedling plants were built, and buildings were equipped with steam heat, electric lighting, and ventilation systems. Vegetables from the farm, named the Allendale Produce Gardens, were delivered daily to the New York and Paterson wholesale markets.

In 1915, Henry J. Appert retired and his son, Arthur A. Appert, took over the business and continued to improve the farm. Under his direction, produce was shipped by motor truck and refrigerated railway cars to wholesale markets in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Paterson. The celery grown here was branded as "Triple A" or "King Arthur" brand celery. Arthur Appert retired in 1943 and sold the land and business to McBride Inc. of Paterson. They ran the farm until after World War II and in the 1950s sold a small portion of the land to Vincent Scafuro for a fish hatchery.

In 1980, through the efforts of a group of Allendale residents, the celery farm acreage was purchased from the McBride family by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, a nonprofit environmental organization which bought the land to keep it from being developed. The borough applied for Green Acres funding, and the celery farm has now been designated as a nature preserve.

(to be continued)

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

(continued from the November 1981 issue)

- March 26, 1915--still alarm, Allendale; Dewsnap phoned; Chimney fire, W. Dewsnap house; left 8:45 p.m., returned 9:30 p.m. Used auto, Ackerman driving.
- April 18, 1915--Allendale; brush fire, W. C. Lee, B. F. Hutches, Jr. Used auto.
- April 21, 1915--alarm 2-5, Allendale; brush fire, J. Yeomans, W. Lutz, C. Gousset, P. McNelley; left 3:00 p.m., returned 7:15 p.m. Used auto, W. F. Kornhoff driving.
- May 13, 1915--alarm 2-7, Allendale; brush fire, Lawrence; left 7:30 p.m., returned 7:45 p.m. Used auto, W. F. Kornhoff driving.
- September 29, 1915--still alarm, Suffern, N.Y.; assistance asked for by Suffern; left 2:30 a.m., returned 6:30 a.m. Used auto, W. F. Kornhoff driving.
- October 27, 1915--alarm 1-6, Allendale; brush fire; left 5:15 p.m., returned 5:30 p.m. Used auto, J. H. Ackerman driving.

November 3, 1915--Saddle River; assistance asked for; total loss; left 10:30 a.m., returned 1:25 p.m. Used auto, W. F. Kornhoff driving.

December 3, 1915--still alarm, Waldwick; Mrs. G. Schultz; total loss; left 9:15 p.m., returned 11:00 p.m. Used auto, W. F. Kornhoff driving.

December 3, 1915--alarm 1-4, Allendale; L. Dexter's work shop; damage very slight; left 11:45 a.m., returned 12:00 noon. Used auto, W. F. Kornhoff driving.

April 31, 1916--atill alarm, Saddle River; Mr. Kidel (Keidel), wagon shed; total loss; left 10:45 a.m., returned 11:40 a.m. Used auto, J. Ackerman driving.

May 10, 1916--alarm 3-6, Allendale; C. Parigot, barn; slight damage; left 10:35 a.m., returned 11:00 a.m. Used auto, W. F. Kornhoff driving.

October 7, 1916--alarm-telephone call; Walter Dewsnap house; \$100.00 damage; left 7:45 a.m., returned 9:50 a.m. Used auto, John Ackerman driving.

November 4, 1916--alarm 1-4, Allendale; H. DeHossen, chimney fire; no loss; left 7:15 p.m., returned 8:00 p.m. Used auto, Kornhoff driving.

December 7, 1916--alarm 1-4, Waldwick call; Rocelli Bakery; total loss; left 3:15 p.m., returned 4:10 p.m. Used auto, Ackerman driving.

December 27, 1916--alarm 1-4 (telephone call), Allendale; J. R. Fisher, chimney; no damage; left 6:15 p.m., returned 7:00 p.m. Used auto, Kornhoff driving.

February 17, 1917--telephone call, Waldwick; Fitzner; left 3:30 p.m., returned 4:45 p.m. Used auto, Kornhoff driving.

March 6, 1917--telephone call, Allendale; F. Gray; left 8:00 a.m., returned 8:30 a.m.

(to be continued)

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

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