



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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NO. 1

NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 4, 1982 at 8:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale. Please note change of meeting time from 8:30 to the earlier time of 8:00.

PROGRAM: We have tentatively scheduled a program about how to protect antiques and other valuables in the home from theft and damage. Watch local newspapers for further details about the program.

NEWS AND VIEWS: In this issue of the newsletter are some reminiscences of earlier days in Allendale, written to us by members of our society. We love to receive such mail, and know, from comments received, that our readers also enjoy reading items like these. This is the type of local history that is so easily lost because it is not usually reported in newspapers or recorded in books, but only retained in memories. We strongly encourage you, our members, to take the time to jot down some memories of Allendale's earlier days and send them to us. Many thanks!

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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 residents. We invite any member or friend to write us to add information to any listing or to insert an omitted listing. We would welcome additional information for our files. These notes are being compiled using information at hand that has been accumulated over the years and we freely acknowledge that the lists, 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.

Rapelje, Peter D.

Born about 1828, he was elected Allendale's first Mayor in 1894, serving in that capacity until 1897. He later served on the Allendale Board of Health. He and his family came to Allendale by 1868 and first lived in a house on Franklin Turnpike. In 1892

he built a home on Allendale Avenue. He and his wife, Mary E., had at least two children: Charles Rapelje, born about 1863, and Maria E. Rapelje, born about 1863 (possibly twins).

Reading, James A.

Born about 1847, he worked for the United States Treasury in New York. He married Mary Emma Cable, daughter of Stephen Cable and Emma Berdell. In September 1873 work began on the house at 509 Franklin Turnpike, next door to the Cable home. The Readings moved into their home in February 1874. James A. Reading and Mary Emma Cable had at least three children: Robert B. Reading, born about 1879, died June 1902; a daughter, born in February 1874, who died young; and Howard Reading, born about 1878, died young.

Robinson, William

William Robinson was a charter inactive member of the Allendale Fire Association. He married Gertrude Newlin and they lived at 84 Park Avenue. They had children: William Robinson, b. September 17, 1905 in Allendale; Mary Robinson (married William "Bub" Buhlman); and Gertrude Robinson (married Edmond Maurice Etesse).

Rodman, Dr. Robert W.

A medical doctor, he was a charter member of the Board of Trustees of the Allendale Fire Association in 1910. He held the military rank of Major, and was the charter Commander of Allendale's American Legion Post 204.

Rogers, Fred

The son of William S. Rogers and Ellen Rosens, Fred Rogers was born in London, England on February 18, 1870 and came to the United States at the age of 19. He moved to Allendale about 1900 and ran the Woodlawn Dairy, providing milk to Allendale residents for more than 35 years. He died at Allendale in January 1951.

Rossner, Louis

Born May 14, 1851, he married, in April 1878 in Brooklyn, N.Y., Sarah V. Smith. They moved from Brooklyn to Allendale about 1880, and lived in the house at 450 Brookside Avenue. He was a carpenter, contractor, builder, and ran a store in the Allendale Hotel in 1887. In 1889 he was appointed postmaster of Allendale. Louis Rossner and Sarah V. Smith had six children, among whom were: Elbert H. Rossner; Louis E. Rossner, born 1883 (married Ruth A. McKeeby); Clinton B. Rossner; and Viola Rossner (m. _____ Dodge.) Louis Rossner died in February 1934.

Rossner, Louis E.

The son of Louis Rossner and Sarah V. Smith, he was born April 30, 1883 in Allendale and died in 1970. He was a plumber. He married, in Allendale on December 9, 1905, Ruth A. McKeeby, daughter of Lodowick D. McKeeby and Mary Hoover (Hover?). She was born about 1885 in Montrose, Pennsylvania and died in October 1979. They had two sons: Lodowick Louis Rossner and Robert Boehrn Rossner.

Roswell, Charles Smith

The son of Smith Roswell and Ellen McKinsey Bull, he was born January 9, 1857 in Allendale and died in January 1935. He married, on October 30, 1883, Emma Langwith. She died in Jan-

uary 1925. They had children: Raymond L. Roswell, who married Emma Mensching; and Ingham I. Roswell. Charles Smith Roswell was a station agent for the Erie Railroad, working at the River Street station in Paterson at the time of his death. He served as Mayor of Allendale from 1906 to 1909.

Roswell, Ingham I.

The son of Charles Smith Roswell and Emma Langwith, Ingham I. Roswell was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Association. He married Mamie _____ who died in January 1946, leaving children Alice Ebersole (m. Martin Wetterauw); Mildred Ebersole (m. Benjamin Post); and Donald Roswell.

Roswell, Smith

Smith Roswell was born on February 26, 1827 at La Grange in Dutchess County, N.Y. He died September 24, 1910 and was buried in the Union Cemetery in Waldwick. He married, on July 3, 1853, Ellen McKinsey Bull, who had been born about 1836 and who died February 23, 1923. They had children: Sarah E. Roswell, b. about 1855, m. Joseph Steele; Charles Smith Roswell, b. 1857, m. Emma Langwith; Edgar L. Roswell, b. Feb. 1, 1861, d. Dec. 28, 1880; Ingham I. Roswell, b. Dec. 7, 1862, d. Dec. 4, 1887; William Roswell, b. about 1870, d. March 1954; and Eva M. Roswell, b. about 1876, m. Rev. John R. Winans. Smith Roswell came to Allendale about 1848 and by June 1859 he had been appointed station agent at Allendale by the Erie Railroad. As early as 1859 he was running a general store in Allendale, and about 1857-58 he was appointed postmaster of Allendale at a salary of \$12 a year.

Rowland, Abraham C.

Born about 1857, he was the son of Charles and Sarah A. Rowland. In March 1884, the Hackensack Republican reported: "A. C. Rowland bought his lumber in the West, but will build and do business here. He has secured the old peat mill property where he will put up a commodious and substantial structure for business and dwelling purposes." By July 1884 the store, on what is today Cottage Place, was open and selling "groceries, dry goods, fancy goods, confectionery, paints, oils, putty, lead, hardware, wooden and willow ware, lamp goods, Tobacco and Segars, etc."

Rowland, Charles

Born about 1829, he and his wife, Sarah A., had at least three children: Abraham Rowland, b. about 1857; George Rowland, b. about 1858, m. in 1894 Alice Ten Eyck; and Washington Rowland, b. about 1862. Charles Rowland was a Superintendent in a gas works at the time of the 1880 Federal Census.

Ryerson, Abraham Theodore

A charter member of the Allendale Fire Association, Abraham T. Ryerson and his brother, J. C. Ryerson of Ramsey, were carpenters and builders. A. T. Ryerson married Carrie Vanderbeek, daughter of John Jacob Vanderbeek and Elizabeth Quackenbush.

Salyer, Michael

The son of Edward Salyer and Elizabeth Cox, he was born May 31, 1781 and was baptized June 17, 1781 at Clarkstown, N.Y. He married four times: (1) Maria Bogert; (2) Catriena (Catherine) Perry; (3) Catherine _____; and (4) Ann Hopper. He ran a distillery and cider mill, built about 1824, on the Hohokus Brook near Waldwick.

Salyer, Sadie

The daughter of Henry Salyer and Mary Ann Ramsey, she was born in Mahwah about 1872 and later taught in Allendale's third schoolhouse (today's Police Headquarters).

Scafuro, Albert O.

Born in Saddle River, the son of Ralph Scafuro and Marie Iannicelli, he married Adele Sankus. An attorney in Allendale, he served as Mayor of the borough in 1957-58.

Scholz, Max

In 1895, Max Scholz moved from New York City to Allendale and opened up a barbershop. The son of Rudolph Scholz and Charlotte Gunderman, he was born in Berlin, Germany on March 3, 1867 and came to the United States in 1884. He was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Association. He and his wife, Marie Bindek, had children: Charlotte Scholz and Raymond M. Scholz.

Shannon, William

Born about 1813, he married on November 15, 1834 at New Prospect (Waldwick), Leah Storms, who had been born about 1817. They lived at the corner of Park Avenue and West Crescent Avenue. They had children: John Shannon, b. about 1837; Rachel Shannon, b. about 1836; Isaac Shannon, b. about 1842; and Ann Martha Shannon, b. about 1844. Leah Storms Shannon died February 24, 1874 and was buried in the Union Cemetery, Waldwick.

Sharp, Morris

This surname was probably originally Scharffenstein or Sharpenstein (with various spellings) and it is possible that Morris Sharp was the son of Jacob Scharffenstein and his wife Mareitje, who had children baptized in the mid-1700s (one, Hinrich, in 1743) in the Lutheran Church in New York City. Morris Sharp married, on January 1, 1790 at Schraalenburgh, Elizabeth Stagg, and they had children: Hester Sharp, bapt. 1790 Paramus, m. Aaron Cuyper Ackerman; Elisabeth Sharp, b. 1792, m. Abraham Hopper; Matheus Sharp, b. 1795; Mary Sharp, b. 1797; John Sharp, bapt. 1799, New Prospect; Caty Sharp, b. 1802; Morris Sharp, b. 1803; James Sharp, b. 1806; Wesly Sharp, b. 1808; Hanny Sharp, b. 1818. The last seven children listed were baptized at New Prospect.

In 1791 "Morris Sharp" is listed in the Franklin Township Rateables after John Fell Esq. and before Jacob Valentine Junior, with 20 acres of improved land, 5 acres of unimproved land, 1 horse, and 2 horned cattle. In 1805 "Morris Sharpentine" is listed as one of the first trustees of the Methodist Church at Wortendyke. In 1811 "Morris Sharp ensteen" was one of the signers of a petition to vacate the road called "the Shunpike" which ran through Allendale.

Shearman, William Pitt

Born about 1835, W. P. Shearman was General Agent and Treasurer of the Erie Railroad, an examiner of accounts in the United States Treasury, general supervisor of the Quartermaster's Account in Washington, and in 1879 was appointed Commissioner of Accounts of New York City. In June 1876, Shearman bought a house on Franklin Turnpike (on the site of what is today the Allendale Nursery) from James Alfred Ackerman. W. P. Shearman's grand-

daughter, Janet C. Shearman, wrote in 1974: "My grandfather, William Pitt Shearman, purchased and enlarged an old house on Franklin Turnpike, probably in the 1870s. After his death in 1897, the family--his daughter and two sisters--continued to live there for many years. Ultimately the place was sold and the house later burned to the ground....In the late 1890s my father, Henry S. Shearman, built a small house on the grounds. This we occupied until about 1907, when we moved to New York. I was thirteen years old at the time. In my childhood, the neighbors were the Nadlers, the Savoys, Miss Hattie Ackerman, the Tallmans, the Nimmos, and Theodore Smith."

At the time of the 1880 Federal Census, William P. Shearman was living here with his family: a son, Robert Shearman, aged 14; a daughter, Mary Shearman, aged 12; a son Harry Shearman, aged 11; and W.P.'s two sisters, Helen and Maria. The Bergen County Democrat reported in August 1888: "The handsome carriage and horses of Mr. W. P. Shearman can be seen every evening on Broadway. Mr. Shearman's horses, Allan and Dale, cannot be matched for beauty in the county." In 1888, the southern section of Franklin Turnpike through Allendale was nicknamed "Broadway."

Shearman, Henry S.

The son of William Pitt Shearman, Henry S. Shearman (called Harry) was born about 1869 and married in November 1893, Ida Graydon of Ridgewood. He was elected to the Allendale Board of Education in 1904.

(to be continued)

22 YEARS AGO IN ALLENDALE

From The Ridgewood News, September 11, 1960:

POST YIELDS--TOWN HALL AT LONG LAST. ALLENDALE--The borough's American Legion post is expected to give the community its first town hall Tuesday when it is scheduled to deed the War Memorial Building back to the Board of Education.

The building is a former schoolhouse given to the Legion in 1947. The plan originated then to run the building as a community center fell through and continued Legion ownership is believed impractical.

The School Board is expected to deed the building back to the town immediately. The building has been ruled unfit for school purposes by county school officials.

At its meeting Thursday, the council passed a tentative resolution accepting the deed, should it be given the council, in exchange for a quit claim deed.

For the deed, the council would assume \$700 in outstanding maintenance debts and pay one dollar for the building....

Borough Attorney George Winne said at the council meeting the title to the building was somewhat cloudy because the original owners never filed a quit claim deed.

He said that there were canceled checks on file showing payment for the building by the school board, however. He expected little trouble to result from the absence of the proper papers.

The borough could resort to its right of eminent domain if the Powell estate instituted proceedings to get the building back.

Mayor Newman said an architect would soon be hired to plan reno-

vation of the building. The borough plans to set up offices for the town clerk, tax collector and inspector. The present kitchen area would be made police headquarters and a large meeting room would be formed for official meetings...."

From The Bergen Record, October 26, 1960:

LIVELY HOLIDAYS IN ALLENDALE ARE A CREDIT TO OBSERVERS. NON-PROFIT GROUP RUNS CELEBRATIONS. ALLENDALE--Holiday Observers, Inc. of Allendale is an unusual organization. Its purpose is to plan special events for most major holidays throughout the year, and by so doing, entertain youngsters of the borough and try to keep them out of trouble.

On Memorial Day, the Observers join with other groups for a parade and other ceremonies.

On Independence Day there are games, some for the children and some for the parents. There is a baseball game for youngsters and other entertainment such as baton twirling or a bagpipe band. Soft drinks and hotdogs disappear like magic and, of course, there are plenty of fireworks.

In the fall, a Labor Day dance and Halloween activities, which include window painting and a costume party, are featured.

Christmas is a big occasion with a tree in the business center of the borough, decorations, and a Santa Claus.

It all started about 1923 when a little group of friends, living in the vicinity of Memorial Park, got together and celebrated the Fourth with fireworks, lemonade and cake. In the early days, Harry Bogardus, the Erie Railroad engineer, took charge of roman candles and rockets. It was a lot of fun and the group decided to celebrate again the next year.

The next year, word seemed to have gotten around. There wasn't enough room for everyone in the little park, but they still had fun.

And so it grew. For several years, it was up to the Mayor to appoint the holiday committee. After a while, however, the committee became a political football and the fun went out of it. In 1935, the group broke away from the Borough government, and became the Holiday Observers, Inc.

When the group first started, there were 12 members. Today there are 60. Norman Critchley, an active member, is the son of one of the founders. His father was William G. "Pop" Critchley. The senior Critchley was postmaster in Allendale for many years. He also had the real estate and insurance business that Norman now has...

During the depression years, the Observers helped less fortunate persons by sending them baskets of food. This is still done to a lesser extent, but the Observers don't say much about it....

BABE RUTH IN ALLENDALE

In an article from the "Then and Now" column of The Record, September 7, 1982, Elliott Ashare wrote about the Allendale Hotel: "Babe Ruth cooked there. The Allendale Hotel, a landmark at 115 W. Allendale Ave. and site of the home run king's late-night culinary efforts, has been renovated over the years by its owner, William J. Dixon....The Bambino was a guest at the hotel in the 1930s, when he played for the Yankees. 'When the place was practically closed, he used to go into the kitchen and cook there,' Dixon said.

Other long-time Allendale residents remember Babe Ruth visiting

at the Homewood Avenue home of his friend, Dr. Harry Lampa.

And former Allendale resident Walter Herbert Hillman wrote to us from Arizona about "baseball in the 30s and 40s. There were two teams, the A's and the B's. One experience I remember--the A's put a well-known ball player on their team. He wasn't found out until he hit a homer over the score board. His name? Babe Ruth. On another weekend, in the stands was Two-Ton Tony Galento, his wife, and his boy, One-Ton. The Scafuro boys always tried to have a surprise for those at the games. Also, as players, the Caputi boys always could be counted on."

READ IT AND WEEP!

In 1894, the year Allendale became a borough, a monthly commutation ticket on the Erie Railroad between Allendale and Hoboken was \$6.70! (Of course, in that same year, you could buy a gas heating stove for \$2.95, 3 quarts of ice cream for \$1.65, an all-wool carpet 3 by 4 yards for \$9.98, a dozen eggs for 18 cents, and a dozen Mason jars for 75 cents.)

ANOTHER STATISTIC FROM THE EARLY 1900s

Society member Laura Barret Haviland writes to us from Red Bank, N.J. about an incident that happened to her father in Allendale:

"In April 1902 my father, A. C. Barrett, was driving with his horse and sulky, on the Franklin Turnpike when a passing automobile frightened his horse. I do not know exactly what happened, but whatever did happen was enough to cause my father to write a letter of protest to the owner of the automobile. I am enclosing a Xerox copy of the letter written in reply....I think it might be of interest to some people, especially the mention of the number of cars traveling on the Turnpike."

Wall Street
New York

May 2nd 1902

Mr. A. C. Barrett
Allendale, N.J.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 29th Ult., I beg to say; although I possibly passed on the Franklin Turnpike on my way to New York last Sunday, I did not encounter any carriage between Ramsey and Ridgewood, and at no time did I pass a carriage without stopping. Evidently you have been misinformed, and if you and your informer would stop and think that I am not the only automobilist who uses this road and that there are passing on the road weekly between Tuxedo and New York something like 50 automobiles, you would see the necessity of being absolutely positive before making such an assertion.

H.O.H. Jr.

Yours truly
(signed) H. O. Havemeyer Junior

