



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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No. 3

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 7, 1983 at 8:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale.

PROGRAM: Gay McIndoe, of Ridgewood, will speak on postcards. Mrs. McIndoe is an antique dealer and collector and spoke to our Society some time ago on valentines. The public, Society members, and friends are cordially invited to attend the meeting and to bring along any interesting postcards they may have to show to Mrs. McIndoe.

The Society is particularly interested in old postcards of Allendale which could be photostatted and added to our files in the library.

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

(Continued from the
April 1982 issue)

Dorcas Girls

The Dorcas Girls were a group of young women connected with the Archer Methodist Church c. 1909. On July 15 of that year, they presented a comedy play at Archer Hall. Those who took part in the play included Alma Seipel, Kitty Austin, Mary Hubbard, Sadie Mallinson, Gertrude Borger, Myrtle Quackenbush, Anna Van Dien, Ida McGuire, and Josie Ackerson. John W. Steele staged the play, Miss Lottie Scholz was the accompanist, and Mrs. McKeeby was chairman of the event.

Entertainment of Bygone Days

Old newspapers, diaries and other sources supply us with accounts of various entertainments held in Allendale years ago. Charity Ackerman wrote in her diary on Dec. 21, 1837 about the exhibition of the Siamese twins in Hackensack, and Martha Ann Zabriskie wrote in her journal on Nov. 1, 1833 about "a great show of animals" at New Prospect (Waldwick-Allendale area).

About 1885 a Lyceum was organized in Allendale, with meetings held at the Archer Methodist Church. 49 members were enrolled at its opening in May of that year, with Rev. Jesse Gilbert elected

president; Stephen Hopper, secretary; Laura Gilbert, treasurer. Performers at the initial offering included Fannie Forth, Mr. Farren (of Paterson) who sang "My Wife's Such a Fidgety Thing," Jennie Jenks, Lizzie Mallinson, who sang "Dublin Boy," and Isaac Keyser. The Lyceum lasted several years, and in July 1887, The Hackensack Republican ran this item from its Allendale correspondent: "If one wants to get an idea how popular our Lyceums are, especially during this hot weather, just take a stroll into Archer Hall some evening; the room is nearly always crowded. Last Lyceum night 231 plates of ice cream were served in the lower portion of the hall."

Not all entertainments were universally popular--one held in 1885 was remembered none too kindly by a writer for The Ramsey Journal in September 1892: "It is just seven years ago since some people from New York gave a concert in the Hall for the benefit of the church. Some of these people moved in New York's best social and artistic circles and when the performance was over a dance was gotten up. It was the first of its kind in Allendale and some of our leading citizens rushed to the owner of the hall, dragged him out of bed and had him put out the lights upon the dancers, declaring that the devil had been let loose in the town. These same citizens have since broadened mentally, for within the past two years we have seen them tripping the 'light fantastic' in spite of the devil and his allurements."

Various entertainments and exhibitions were presented at Archer Hall in the early 1900s. The Crest Minstrel Company gave annual performances at Archer Hall from 1905 until at least August 1908. In April 1910, and exhibition of Mrs. Jarley's wax works was held at the Hall.

In January 1919 the Board of Trade of Allendale voted to form a stock company, with shares selling for \$5 each, to purchase a motion picture projector and to procure films for presentation in Allendale. The committee, which included the Messrs. Potter, Parigot, Darken, Arlt, and Whittaker, announced that the pictures shown would include those of Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Charlie Chaplin, and other major stars.

Beginning in May 1920, the Allendale Fire Department presented motion pictures with their newly-purchased projector at the Fire House, which at that time also served as the Borough Hall. On Oct. 14, 1920, the reporter for The Ramsey Journal wrote, "The movies held in Borough Hall on Tuesday evening continue to draw a full house. The firemen are showing a very high calibre of picture." In May 1925, an item in The Allendale Argus announced, "The firemen will show two pictures this week. 'The Side Show of Life,' a picture adapted from William J. Locke's novel, 'The Montebank,' will be featured Saturday evening, Decoration Day. This is the story of two worlds--circus and society--moulded into a fascinating picture of love, fun and thrills. Pathe news and 'High Society,' a comedy, will also be shown, Next Tuesday evening the firemen will present 'The Girl in the Limousine.' 'Riders of the Purple Cows,' a comedy, and Pathe news will be screened also."

Evacuation Day

Charity Ackerman, in her diary, noted on November 25, 1839 that it was Evacuation Day. The anniversary of the evacuation of New York by the British was celebrated, usually with some sort of military display, for a good number of years after the Revolution, probably until about the time of the Civil War.

Evening Woman's Club

First organized as the Evening Membership Department of the Woman's Club on March 8, 1946, its first chairman was Mrs. Kenneth Mowerson. In November of 1948, it became a separate Woman's Club, officially the Woman's Evening Club of Allendale, a member of the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs. The elected officers for the new club were: Mrs. Roy Dietert, president; Mrs. Ulysses Savoye, vice president; Mrs. Martin Wetterauw, secretary; and Mrs. Hans Kirschenbauer, treasurer. Those present at the first organizational meeting for the "new" club, held on November 3, 1948, were: Mrs. George Price, Mrs. Martin Wetterauw, Mrs. Russell Stewart, Mrs. Fred Grofsick, Mrs. R. Hoppen, Mrs. Craven, Mrs. Harold Osborne, Mrs. DeBlock, Mrs. Carlton Hutchinson, Mrs. Harold Haefner, Mrs. U. Savoye, Mrs. M. Harvey, Mrs. Edgar Varick, Mrs. H. Kirschenbauer, Mrs. Kenneth Mowerson, Mrs. Harold Bogardus, Mrs. Carl Wehner, Mrs. Norman Kershaw, Mrs. Roy Dietert, Mrs. Bieder, and Mrs. Calder Estler.

Franklin Club

The Franklin Club flourished in the early years of the twentieth century in Allendale. It appears to have been a social club, probably affiliated with the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany. The club sponsored bowling tournaments and theater presentations, bowling on the alley that once was in the basement of the old Episcopal Church Meeting Hall (now the Presbyterian Church building). On March 18, 1904, The Ramsey Journal reported that "on Thursday evening the Franklin Club gave a reception to its members and friends. The fore part of the evening was spent in bowling. After this the company adjourned to the large room upstairs where a long table was spread with dainty refreshments." The Franklin Club defeated the Saddle River team in a bowling tournament held May 23, 1904. Bowling for the Franklin Club in that tournament were William Dewsnap, Gustave Nadler, Henry B. Ivers, Percy Southwick Doty, and George W. Parigot. For more on the Franklin Club, including a reproduction of the program of a play they presented, see the April 1977 issue of Allendale History and Heritage.

(to be continued)

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FROM OUR MAILBOX

In January we received a wonderful letter from Elsa R. Ferguson of Ridgewood who wrote: "It was with great interest that I read about my grandfather in the November bulletin, namely Charles F. Simon. I remember him well. He adored his grandchildren and had nicknames for each one.

When my mother, Ella Mae Simon Rohl, moved to Saddle River with her family, he walked from Allendale a mile and a half to where we lived in Saddle River. He brought three New York newspapers which he read thoroughly after a good breakfast prepared by my mother. He also brought each grandchild a small bag of candy every day, rain or shine.

In addition to my mother, he had four sons, Charles F. Simon, Jr., Nelson Miles Simon, Steven Simon, and George Dewey Simon. They all lived in local towns and raised families.

My grandfather died when I was eleven years old and I missed him terribly. I never knew my grandmother, Mary Elizabeth More, who

was his wife. She died while my mother was still a young, unmarried woman.

In his later years, he was a gateman at the railroad tracks in Allendale. My uncle, Nelson M. Simon, had a taxi business in Allendale for many years after the automobile became popular. His home and office were near the Erie tracks for convenience. Also, he was Chief of Police of Allendale at the time that a rooming house on Franklin Turnpike burned down and I believe a man was killed when a bomb was put in the engine of his car.

Another one of my pleasant memories about Allendale is the Fourth of July Celebrations which lasted all day and ended with fireworks and a block dance.

Also, attending the Archer Methodist Church where I felt 'at home' since I had been baptized there by Dominie Woodruff. He baptized all but one of my mother's eight children before he died. Seven of these 'children' are still living."

We thank you, Mrs. Ferguson, for sharing these memories with us.

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THE PERILS OF WINTER. . . YESTERYEAR DEPARTMENT

From an unidentified newspaper clipping, c. 1902-03:
"Last Sunday P. Balinsky hitched his flyer to Frank Storms' cutter, and accompanied by Mrs. Balinsky, Mr. and Mrs. Storms started on a sleigh ride. The first adventure was in Hoppertown Lane, where a snowbank on one hand and an unseen rock on the other spilled the occupants and wrecked the cutter. Another sleigh was procured and the objective point reached in due time. On the return journey a high rate of speed was developed by the horse, and in going over a rise in the road the jolt threw Mrs. Storms out. Mrs. Balinsky tried to make the gentlemen understand that a passenger was overboard, but the gentlemen, with muffled ears and ringing of sleigh bells ahead were only intent on making quick time, and Mr. Storms yelled "let her go." When it finally impressed upon the driver that Mrs. Storms was lost, the team was turned and the unfortunate passenger rescued from her lonely position by the roadside. After this there was no further mishap."

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LOCATIONS OF EARLY ALLENDALE FIRE ALARMS

As printed in an Allendale Board of Trade Bulletin, dated August 1918, fire alarms (which were old R,R. wheel irons suspended in frames, and sounded by striking) were positioned in the following locations, and were indentified geographically by the number and sequence of strikes:

Park & Brookside Avenues	Strike 1-5
Franklin Turnpike (Isley)	Strike 3-5
Railroad Crossing (Hotel)	Strike 1-4
Allendale Ave. & Franklin Turnpike	Strike 1-6
Myrtle & W. Crescent Aves.	Strike 1-7
Hillside & W. Crescent Aves.	Strike 2-4
Hillside Ave. (Gousset)	Strike 2-5
Brookside Ave. (Smith)	Strike 2-6

Park & Crescent Aves. (Lee)	Strike 2-7
Franklin Turnpike (Gatehouse)	Strike 3-4
E. Allendale Ave. (Zabriskie)	Strike 3-6

2 Strikes: Back Taps, Fire Out
 3 Strikes: Test Alarm
 4 Strikes: Drill Call

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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. 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.

Stolz, Henry

Probably the son of Jacob Stolz, Henry Stolz and his wife Margaret (Peggy) had at least seven children: Elisabeth Stolz, b. May 4, bapt. July 20, 1800 at Paramus; Jacob Stolz, b. Dec. 17, 1801, bapt. Jan. 31, 1802 at Paramus; Charity Stolz, bapt. Oct. 9, 1803 at New Prospect; Jane Stolz, b. Sept. 7, bapt. Sept. 22, 1805 at New Prospect; Hannah Stolz, b. Aug. 8, bapt. Aug. 23, 1807 at New Prospect; Mary Ann Stolz, b. July 15, bapt. Oct. 20, 1809 at New Prospect; Sarah Stolz, b. June 29, bapt. July 21, 1811.

Stolz, Johannes

A wampum factory is said to have been run by Johannes Stolz about 1720 near the southwestern limits of Allendale's boundaries. Later area inhabitants of the same name were probably descendants of this early settler.

Stolz, Peter

Peter Stolz married, on February 3, 1799 at New Prospect, Jemima Mecks (Mix?) and they had children, baptized at New Prospect: Jacob Stolz, b. Dec. 1801, bapt. Jan. 3, 1802; James Stolz, bapt. Oct. 13, 1803; and Anna Stolz, bapt. Mar. 9, 1806.

Storms, Abraham

Born about 1810, he married, at New Prospect, Sept. 26, 1829, Rachel Ackerman. They had children: Rachel Storms, b. abt. 1830; and John Storms, b. abt. 1836.

Storms, Andrew J.

Andrew J. Storms married, on Jan. 14, 1832, Eliza Ackerman, daughter of John Ackerman and Hannah Voorhis. After his death Eliza married, as her second husband, on Oct. 26, 1850, Lewis H. Hopper.

Storms, Ellen

Mrs. Storms lived in the old tollgate house at the intersection of Crescent Ave. and Franklin Turnpike and ran a store in the

building. Mae Selfridge, in a 1975 interview, recalled that as a child she would stop by the tollgate house, where Mrs. Storms could always be counted on to distribute cookies and candy from her apron pocket to any children passing by. She had a son, Frank Storms, born about 1862. By 1880 she was married to Andrew J. Oblenis.

Storms, Frank H.

Born about 1862, he ran a livery stable, c. 1895 in Allendale, where he met trains with his carriages and baggage express wagon. He and his wife, Jane Ann, had children: F. Hosey Storms; Katherine Storms; and Estella Storms. Frank H. Storms served as president of the Old Hall Association and was a member of the Home Amusement Club in Saddle River. He died about 1932; his wife, Jane Ann, died about 1941.

Storms, George W.

The son of John Storms and Catherine Zabriskie, he was born August 10, 1854 in Allendale and died in August 1945. He married Harriet Quackenbush and they had children: Katherine Storms, b. abt. 1874; Lewis B. Storms, b. abt. 1877; Jacob Storms, b. abt. 1879; Anna Storms; Eva Storms; and Mae Storms. The family lived on E. Saddle River Road in Saddle River.

Storms, Jacob John

The son of John Storms and Mary Terhune, he was born January 23, 1864 in Allendale, and died May 24, 1938. He married Carolyn Greer and they had one child: Natalie Storms. He worked for Dodge & Alcot, wholesale druggists in New York City, for 58 years, beginning at the age of 16.

Storms, John A.

Born about 1835, his children were: Rachel A. Storms, b. abt. 1857; Andrew J. Storms, b. abt. 1859; Abram Storms, m. Sarah C. Terwilliger; George Storms; Jacob J. Storms; John A. Storms; Archer Storms; Anna Storms, m. George Terwilliger; Mary Nellie Storms, m. Ernest M. Ackert; and Lydia Storms, m. William H. Holcomb.

Straut, Everett A.

The son of Henry Straut and Katherine Elizabeth Ackerson, he married, October 25, 1917, Eugenia J. Spicher, daughter of Edward F. Spicher and Clara Page. They had children: Bennett Irving Straut, b. Jan. 1919; and Everett A. Straut, Jr.

Straut, Henry

The son of John and Hannah Straut, he was born about 1856 and married, April 19, 1884, Katherine Elizabeth Ackerson, daughter of Jacob D. Ackerson and Mary Ackerman. They had a child, Everett Straut, who married Eugenia Spicher.

Sullivan, Arthur Bull

Born in New York City, February 25, 1873, the son of Arthur Thomas Sullivan, he was a reporter for The New York Sun upon graduation from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. He later became affiliated with his father's company, Sullivan & Vail Company, wholesale dealers in woolen goods. In 1911 he moved to Allendale, where he ran his "Sable Feather Farm" on Franklin

Turnpike, importing and exporting S.C. Black Orpingtons. A member of the American Poultry Association, he was active locally as president of the Allendale Fire Department 1917-19. He and his wife Lilly Mott (daughter of Charles Mott and Jeannette Schimmel) had two children: Isabel Place Sullivan and Arthur Thomas Sullivan.

Switzer, Carrie

The daughter of John E. and Louisa L. Switzer, she was born about 1864. She was organist for Archer Memorial Methodist Church from 1896 until 1912. She lived with her father in the house at 100 East Allendale Avenue, where she ran, c. 1915, The Allendale School of Music at "Switzer Manor" with a teaching capacity of 200 day pupils and accommodations for a limited number of resident pupils. She died, at Saylorsburg, Pa., in June 1947.

Switzer, John E.

Born about 1832 in Pennsylvania, he and his wife, Louisa L., had two children: Walter Switzer; b. abt. 1859, m. Anna Augusta Pell; and Carrie Switzer, b. abt. 1864. He and his family lived at 100 East Allendale Avenue. About 1856 he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He served as pastor of the New Prospect (Waldwick) Methodist Church for two years c. 1865. He later served as pastor of the Saddle River Lutheran Church. Louisa L. Switzer died about 1917, and John E. Switzer died in Sept. 1921.

Switzer, Walter E.

The son of John E. and Louisa L. Switzer, he was born about 1859 and married Anna Augusta Pell, daughter of David Ackerman Pell and Catherine Ann Ackerman. Walter E. Switzer was a real estate agent and a trustee of the Orvil Cooperative Building and Loan Association. He died in March 1916,

(to be continued)

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

(continued from the November 1982 issue)

January 24, 1921--Saddle River--Alarm 1-4, telephone call; chimney fire, John Storms; used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 5:10 p.m., returned 5:35 p.m.

January 26, 1921--Ramsey--Alarm 1-4, telephone call; five houses, stores (Parvin, Rohman, McPeek, etc.); used hose truck, Kornhoff driving. Left 3:50 a.m., returned at 6:50 a.m.

January 26, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call; brush fire, E. Mainey; used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 8:50 a.m., returned 9:05 a.m.

January 26, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call; brush fire, C. Rossner; used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 1:30 p.m., returned 2:00 p.m.

January 27, 1921--Alarm 1-4; brush fire, ball park; used hose truck, Ackerman driving.

February 16, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call; garage fire, R. Christopher; used hose truck, Megnin driving; used hook & ladder truck, Kornhoff driving. Left 9:20 p.m., returned 9:40 p.m.

February 19, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call; brush fire, Higgins; used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 3:30 p.m., returned 4:15 p.m.

March 12, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call; brush fire, Saunders; used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 4:30 p.m., returned 5:20 p.m.

March 18, 1921--Alarm 1-4, still alarm, telephone call; brush fire, Hutches; used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 9 p.m., returned 9:25 p.m.

March 21, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call; brush fire, Talman's (Crescent Ave. property); used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 20:20 a.m., returned 10:55 a.m.

March 23, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call; brush fire, Swan's Crossing; Used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 3:30 p.m., returned 3:55 p.m.

March 28, 1921--Alarm 1-4, telephone call--Saddle River (help); chimney fire, Frank Storms; used hose truck, Megnin driving. Left 1:30 p.m., returned 1:55 p.m.

(to be continued)

We welcome the following new members to the Allendale Historical Society:

Paulette From
Claude Voorhis
Dr. George Richardson
Dawn Dugas
Mr. & Mrs. James Thomas
Marion W. Phillips
Teresa Collins
Mrs. H. Bandstra

The State Historical
Society of Wisconsin

Allendale Historical Society
Officers and Chairmen, 1982-83

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

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