



## ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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No. 2

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, December 2, 1985 at 8:00 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale (Second Floor).

**PROGRAM:** Our guest speaker will be Mr. J. W. Bristow of Mahwah, who will discuss post-Victorian houses from 1895 to 1940. The meeting and program will be followed by our annual Christmas party. Please come and bring a friend!

**SOCIETY NEWS:** So many of our members have told us how very much they enjoyed reading the reminiscences several members wrote down and sent in to us. We love to print your letters, reminiscences, and articles about Allendale and the surrounding towns. On behalf of our entire membership, we thank those of you who jotted down some thoughts for us, and we ask all of you to write more for us! Perhaps something you read in a newsletter will prompt a memory--a name, a place, an event--we'd love to hear from you.

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### ALLENDALE NOTES . . .

#### BITS AND PIECES OF ALLENDALE HISTORY

COMPILED BY PAT WARDELL

(Continued from the September 1985 issue)

#### Incorporation Proceedings for the Borough of Allendale

In 1894 Allendale became a borough. What follows are notes on the legal documents concerning Allendale's incorporation as a borough. The

documents are filed at the Bergen County Courthouse.

September 17, 1894--Petition for a special election to propose the question of formation of a borough named "The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale." The petition was signed by owners of at least 10% of the taxable property within the



boundaries of the proposed borough, which encompassed parts of Orvil, Hohokus, and Franklin Townships. Signers of the petition were:

Citizens & property owners of Orvil Township in proposed borough: R.V. Ackerman, O.H.P. Archer, J.A. Mallinson, William H. Mallinson, and Louise Doty.

Citizens & property owners of Franklin Township in proposed borough: Louis Rossner.

Citizens & property owners of Hohokus Township in proposed borough: R.V. Ackerman, Peter D. Rapelje, Garret G. Smith, John A. Mallinson, and William H. Mallinson.

October 16, 1894--In response to the petition for the formation of a borough government in the townships of Orvil, Hohokus, and Franklin, to be known as "The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale," James Van Valen, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Bergen County, ordered that a special election be held at Archer Hall in Allendale on November 8, 1894 to enable qualified residents to vote for or against the incorporation of the borough.

Judge Van Valen appointed Alfred E. Ivers Clerk of the Election, and William H. Mallinson and Joseph H. Ware Inspectors of the Election.

October 20, 1894--Joseph H. Ware, Election Inspector, posted 10 notices of election, to be held November 8th, in the following locations within the limits of the proposed borough of Allendale:

1. One on a post in the Post Office at Allendale.
2. One on a wall in the gentlemen's waiting room in the depot at Allendale.
3. One on a post in R.V. Ackerman's grocery store in Allendale.
4. One on the public bulletin board on the southwest corner of Allendale Avenue and

Franklin Turnpike in Allendale.

5. One on the gate post in front of the school house at Allendale.

6. One on a guide post on the northwest corner of Allendale Avenue and Chapel Street, at Allendale.

7. One on the door (outside) of Zabriskie's blacksmith shop on Allendale Avenue, in Allendale.

8. One on the outside of the door of Bullis's [Editor's Note: should be *Pulis's*] blacksmith shop on the Franklin Turnpike near Allendale.

9. One on the front of Bustis's Feed Mill on the road leading from Allendale to Wyckoff.

10. One on a telegraph pole situated on the road leading from Allendale to Wickoff [sic] near the barn of R.V.Ackerman.

November 8, 1894--Certificate of election, signed by Alfred E. Ivers, Clerk of Election, and William H. Mallinson and Joseph H. Ware, Election Inspectors:

"The whole number of ballots was one hundred and eleven of which one hundred votes were for incorporation and eleven votes were cast against incorporation, giving a majority of eighty-nine votes for incorporation."

November 10, 1894--Proceedings for the incorporation of the Borough of Allendale were filed and recorded by Samuel Taylor, Clerk.

In its early years, legally, the town was "The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale." Apparently, in 1903, the town was legally incorporated as the Borough of Allendale. A newspaper clipping from the April 29, 1962 issue of The Ridgewood News reflected the puzzle: "Residents who may have been concerned over the statement some time ago by Borough Attorney George Winne to the effect that 'record wise' Allendale does not exist can now relax. When Winne went searching in county lists for a



record of the incorporation of the borough, it wasn't there. Further research, however, disclosed that Allendale, once part of Orville Township, petitioned for and received permission to secede from the Township in 1894. Elections were held and the town affairs were administered by a Mayor and Council for some time. Formal application for incorporation was made and accepted in 1903."

### Independence Day

The fourth of July has long been a festive and active day in Allendale, thanks largely to the efforts of Allendale's Holiday Observers organization. Here's an article about the Independence Day celebration in Allendale of 1918, during World War I. This account was published in the Allendale Board of Trade Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 2, for August 1918:

"The big event of the month of July was the Fourth of July celebration. We had a bang-up time, one feature of which was the parade headed by the famous band of the 363d Infantry, National Army. The parade was delayed in starting because the band of the 49th Infantry which we were to have had, sailed for France before the Fourth. In order to allow the 363d band to come here its overseas inspection was hurried through. The day after the boys were in Allendale they left Camp Merritt. They are now "Somewhere in France" and we hope have as much pleasure in recalling their day in Allendale as have the residents of this borough. Besides the band and the 50 other soldiers from Camp Merritt we had as guests the Waldwick Home Guard and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts from Paterson who were camping at Mr. Potter's. The local organizations which paraded were the Firemen and their apparatus, Home Guard, Boy Scouts, Girls' Patriotic League and School Children. The Red Cross was represented by a float.

At Recreation Park there was a splendid patriotic address by Rev. Forest Edwards of Chatham, N.J., and afterward the ball game between Allendale and Camp Merritt. We really have forgotten the score--it doesn't matter. The soldiers won.

Then the Allendale citizens took the soldiers home for dinner and at night there was the greatest dance ever to the music of the 363d band, which also gave a concert in front of the Borough Hall at 8 o'clock.

The crowd at Recreation Park the afternoon of the Fourth was the largest ever seen in Allendale with the possible exception of that at the 21st Birthday celebration of the Borough in 1915."

### Indian Relics

Over the years Indian arrow heads and stone axes have been found in Allendale. Two residents who found artifacts were:

Joseph Ware, who, reported The Ramsey Journal, May 3, 1895, "...while picking up some stone to put in front of his house, found an Indian axe. It is one of the most perfect found in this part of the country."

H. J. Appert, whose daughter, Ella Appert (reminiscing in 1975 about the early days of Appert's celery farm) recalled that he had found flint arrow heads and hatchets of Indian origin on his property.

### Junior Woman's Club of Allendale

On May 11, 1933, The Ramsey Journal reported: "On Friday night a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Clarence E. Springstead, of Hillside Avenue, for the purpose of organizing a Junior Woman's Club to the Woman's Club of Allendale. Mrs. J. Berkeley Hunter, president of the Allendale Woman's Club, presided."

A week later, May 18, 1933, The Ramsey Journal included this article: "The



organization of the Juniors of the Woman's Club of Allendale was held at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Mowerson, of Mallinson Street, on Friday night. Mrs. J. Berkeley Hunter, president of the Woman's Club presided. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Norman Critchley; vice president, Miss Grace Moelhausen; recording secretary, Mrs. David Frazer; corresponding secretary, Mrs. James Secor; treasurer, Mrs. John H. Knack. Mrs. Clarence S. Springstead was appointed chairman with power to select her own committee to draw up a constitution and set of by-laws. Mrs. George Christopher was appointed chairman of the hospitality committee, and to select her own committee. Mrs. G. Albert was appointed chairman of publicity. Arrangements were made to hold a card party on June 8th on the lawn of the home of Mrs. Kenneth Mowerson. Mrs. Mowerson was appointed chairman with power to select her own committee. Among those present were: Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Norman Critchley, Miss Grace Moelhausen, Mrs. David Frazer, Mrs. James Secor, Mrs. John Knack, Mrs. G. Albert Hill, Miss Edith Growsick, Mrs. Clarence S. Springstead, Mrs. George Christopher, Mrs. Evelyn Simpson, Mrs. Hitler, Miss Violet Winters, Mrs. Daniel Hartnett, all of Allendale; Mrs. Buritt Lawlin of Wyckoff; Mrs. Edward Brower, of Saddle River and Miss Ruth Schuellein, of Ridgewood."

#### King's Daughters Society

This was a group of young women connected with the Archer Methodist Church. This item concerning the group appeared in The Ramsey Journal on February 13, 1914: "Don't forget 'Billy's Bungalow' that three set comedy that you have heard so much about. It will be given in Archer Hall on Monday evening Feb. 16th by the King's Daughters Society. Get your

reserved seat at Borger's store, before the best ones are all taken. You can't help but enjoy every bit of it. At the annual election of officers of the King's Daughters of Archer M. E. Church held on Wednesday night the following were elected: President--Miss Florence Darrow, First Vice President--Sadie Mallinson, Second Vice President--Edna Ackerman, Secretary--Ethel Quackenbush, Treasurer--L. Gertrude Borger."

#### Lawn Tennis Club

From The Bergen County Democrat, August 3, 1888: "The Allendale Lawn Tennis Club was organized last Wednesday evening. They have rented from Mr. Joseph Mallinson the grounds at the corner of Broadway and Lenox Avenue. During the summer they will play a number of tournaments with other neighboring clubs. The following are the members: Miss Bessie Whiting, Miss Nellie Whiting, Miss Angie O'Neill, Miss Grace O'Neill, Miss Hattie Archer, Miss Hattie Sterling, Miss Emma Van Tassel, Miss Annie Van Blarcom, Miss Kitty Lacy, Mr. Louis O'Neill, Mr. Frank O'Neill, Dr. Harry Archer, Mr. Frank Merrill, Mr. William Merrill, Mr. Dan Anthony, Mr. William Bogert."

#### Legion of Honor

Formed in Allendale in 1885, according to the following article from The Hackensack Republican, May 14, 1885:

"On Thursday night of last week a meeting was held at Archer's Hall to organize a Legion of Honor. Seventeen members were enrolled. Grand Secretary J. B. Clinton of Passaic, assisted by Companion Freer of Newark, installed the following officers: Commander, W. S. Decker; Vice Commander, John J. Hopper, Jr.; Secretary, A. M. Ackerman; Collector, E. E. Powell; Treasurer, I. I. Roswell; Guide, W. E. Switzer; Warden, Stephen Hopper; Chaplain,



A.J. Ackerman; Secretary, W. C. Rowland; Trustees, Smith Roswell, H. Youmans, and W. H. Ackerman..."

#### Library--Allendale Public (Lee Memorial)

The library in Allendale, one of northern Bergen County's first, was begun by the Village Improvement Association in December 1900. The V.I.A. had been formed in 1887 when Allendale was still a part of Orvil, Hohokus, and Franklin Townships, to improve conditions in the community. The V.I.A., under its first and only president, Albert L. Zabriskie, arranged for Allendale's first stretch of paved road and was responsible for erecting and maintaining the town's first street lights. In 1900, the Village Improvement Association organized a library committee, comprised of five civic-minded ladies, Mrs. E. W. Spring, Chairman, Mrs. Wallace E. Carver, Mrs. Steven Van Houten, Mrs. Frank Merrill, and Mrs. Frank Drummond, to begin and maintain a lending library for Allendale. In December 1900, the library, housed on the second floor of the school building (now, minus the second story, Allendale Police Headquarters) was opened for business. The Ramsey Journal, in its issue of December 14, 1900, reported: "The Allendale Library...was opened last week...The state has already sent a large case of books from the 'traveling library'...After these are read, they are sent to some other town and a fresh supply sent here...Non residents may also take books out..." The population of turn-of-the-century Allendale was 694 when the library, supported entirely by private funds, including membership dues and donations, opened with about 600 volumes. In 1910, the school found itself in need of a cloak room, so the library made its first of several subsequent moves, to a store owned by John Ackerman. In 1915 its second move

took place--this time to the second floor of Allendale's recently constructed fire house, which at that time also doubled as the Borough Hall. In 1919 the library made its next move--to the Braun Building in the center of the business section of town. On April 7, 1919 the Library Committee disbanded (its sponsor, the V.I.A., had been defunct since about 1903, its purpose having been superseded by the organization of a Borough Council when Allendale was incorporated as a Borough in 1894). In its place, the Allendale Library Association was formed, with its goal being "the perpetuation of the Allendale Public Library and the extension of its work in the community." The secondary goal of the Association was to establish a building fund, to solicit donations to the fund, and to find and purchase a suitable site for the construction of a permanent home for the Library.

In the ensuing busy years, a site was located and purchased from William H. and John A. Mallinson; the Library Association was incorporated (in November 1923); and architect William Dewsnap (who had also designed the Allendale Fire House) began to draw up plans for the long awaited building. By June 7, 1926, the foundation had been completed on the site on the southwest corner of the intersection of Allendale Avenue and Franklin Turnpike.

December 18, 1926 was a big day for the Library--a public reception and open house was held in the newly completed building. Years of hopes and dreams had finally become reality: Allendale's library at last had a permanent home.

It wasn't long before the library began to outgrow its first permanent home. By 1930 Allendale's turn-of-the-century population had nearly tripled, and the library, in only four years, had outgrown its quarters. The depression was on, and library membership dues and donations dropped alarmingly. By



1941 renovations to the existing building were sorely needed and the need for additional space was even more acute than ever. Money was still tight when, in June 1941, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Lee came to the rescue of the Library by presenting to the Board of Trustees their generous offer to renovate the existing building and donate the addition of a wing. Mr. and Mrs. Lee were closely involved with the library for many years. Mr. Lee served for over 31 years, first as trustee, later as vice-president and treasurer and finally as president. His wife, Mary K. Lee, served as Allendale's volunteer librarian for over 33 years. By November 1941 the renovations and the new wing were completed.

Through the years, many efforts had been made to officially municipalize the library, but it was not until November 4, 1952 that the residents of the town voted to have the borough government take over the library building and grounds and to operate the library as a free public library. In December of 1952 the Library Board voted unanimously to rename the library "The Lee Memorial Library" in memory of William C. Lee, whose death had occurred in July.

In February of 1953 Mrs. Austin Sprague became Allendale's first paid librarian. In March 1953, Schuyler C. Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Lee, unveiled the bronze letters over the doorway, which read "Lee Memorial Library."

Today the library shares space with Borough offices in the building at 500 West Crescent Avenue.

### Livery Stables

Until the modern automobile made horse-drawn vehicles a thing of the past, Allendale had her share of Livery Stables and their proprietors, among them:

Cornelius Coe--who ran a stable in connection with the hotel. The Bergen County Democrat of March 27, 1874 reported: "Cornelius Coe of the Allendale House has opened a livery stable, and has every facility for stabling horses, and carrying passengers to any part of the county."

F. H. Storms--Who, according to The Ramsey Journal, June 7, 1895, "...has opened a livery stable in Mr. Yeoman's barn. Besides the carriages that he has for hire, he has a baggage express wagon which meets every train, making it very convenient for summer boarders to get their trunks to and from the station."

A.C. Barrett--Who advertised his Livery, and telephone, in a program booklet published by the Bergen Guard in 1910.

Eddie Williams--who, according to Herbert Winter's Diary, "on Jan. 10, 1917 sold his livery stable (where Central Garage now stands) to Christopher J. Smith.

### Lyceum

From The Hackensack Republican, May 14, 1885: "A Lyceum connected with the M.E. church of this place was organized last Monday night, at Archer's chapel..."

And from The Bergen County Democrat, May 15, 1885: "There was a large attendance at the opening of the lyceum at the chapel on Monday night. The opening services were by Rev. Mr. Gilbert, followed by a prayer by Mr. Mallinson. The following officers were elected: Rev. Jesse Gilbert, President; Stephen Hopper, Secretary; Miss Laura Gilbert, Treasurer. The order of exercises for the evening were--reading by Miss Fannie Forth, song by Mr. Farren, of Paterson, a recitation by Miss Jennie Jenks, Miss Lizzie Mallinson sang "Dublin Boy." A recitation by I. Keyser, who had forgotten his notes and made a short address, which was encored. Isaac then gave a Dutch version of John B. Gough's temperance speech. Recitation



by Miss Laura Gilbert. The exercises closed by a solo from Mr. Farren, "My Wife's such a Fidgety Thing." Forty-nine members were enrolled, and the meeting adjourned to May 25th."

Two years later, on July 28, 1887, The Hackensack Republican reported, "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."

#### Marketing Farm Produce

James B. H. Storms wrote "The New York Markets and the Jersey Farmer" which was printed in Relics (the publication of the Pascack Historical Society) in January 1965. Because the article deals with Allendale as a shipping point, it is of interest to us:

"My father, John J. Storms, was in the wholesale fruit and produce commission business in New York City from 1854 to 1884. His home was...in what is now Park Ridge, where in 1857 he built the residence on Spring Valley Road at its meeting place with Glen Road and the stone bridge over Bear Brook.

The business season usually ran from about June 1st to November 1st of each year.

He at first did business in a cellar on West Street, but before long opened a stand in wholesale West Washington Market, located across West Street from retail Washington Market. The wholesale market site is now occupied by ocean-going steamship offices and piers.

His stand was at 352 River Row, almost at the head of Center Row, and the waters of the Hudson River came to within twenty or thirty feet of the rear of the building. It stood on city-owned property, but he erected the building himself and paid the city \$1 a day

market fees.

Merwin & Storms was the original firm style, but he later purchased his partner's interest, and the latter, who then lived in Hudson City, N.J., moved to Palmyra, N.Y....

When Storms began in business the farmers who entrusted him with the sale of their produce shipped their goods to the city from Allendale, on the Erie Railroad, that being the nearest railroad shipping point, and the Erie placed a freight car on the switch there, and Storms and John H. Osborne of Saddle River, another commission merchant who did the bulk of the business in this section, were on hand to superintend the loading of their customers' shipments.

Storms, who lived in what is now Park Ridge, went to Allendale on Monday afternoons, making the four-mile journey by horse and wagon. He met his customers, saw that their produce was properly loaded, discussed the market outlook and possibilities, and gave advice when needed. They had already attached to their crates business cards of the merchant to whom the produce was consigned, but to make assurance doubly sure the marketmen were equipped with lumps of white chalk and marked each container on the top and on at least one side with a "diamond S" or a "circle o" as the case might be. When a late afternoon freight train came along and took the loaded car in tow, the marketmen rode to Jersey City in its caboose.

Each weekday afternoon except Saturday, Storms came from New York City to Allendale by train, but did not return to his home until the weekend. On Saturdays he traveled by passenger train carrying a cash box which contained individual statements of each customer's shipments, prices received for produce, and the cash due the shipper, less ten percent commission and freight and cartage charges. The farmers would either meet at



Allendale to receive their bills and cash, or call at his home. The return from the railroad would be made by horse and wagon, and Storms remained at home over the weekend until Monday afternoon. The Erie issued monthly commutation tickets to commission merchants at special reduced rates.

Holdups were not in style in those days, and Storms and his cash box were never interfered with, although he carried thousands of dollars in the course of the season without protective guard or even being armed..."

( to be continued )

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### Allendale Fire Department...Records of Early Calls to Fires (Abstracted)

(Continued from April 1985 issue)

April 19, 1929--4:40 p.m.-5 p.m.; Crescent Avenue; Brush; Potters, owner; cause--unknown; no damage.

July 21, 1929--5:20 p.m.-6:05 p.m.; Turnpike; Truck; cause--backfire.

July 27, 1929--5:30 p.m.-6:45p.m.; Turnpike; Truck, Moving Van; cause--backfire.

August 8, 1929--2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m.; Crescent Ave.; Fields & wood pile; Farley, owner; cause--unknown.

August 13, 1929--9:30 a.m.-9:40 a.m.; Allendale Ave.; Tailor shop; J. Kaplan, owner; cause--unknown; damage, slight.

September 3, 1929--12:05a.m.-12:40 a.m.; Hillside Avenue; residence; E. Kerr, owner; cause--choked flue; no damage.

September 25, 1929--1:15 p.m.-1:25 p.m.; Allen Street; Brush; Novokoski, owner of bldg.; cause--R.R.; no damage.

October 27, 1929--12:15 a.m.; Homewood Avenue; residence; Wm. Landiorio, owner & occupant; cause--escaping gas in cellar; value of buildings 13,500; loss on bldgs ?; insurance on buildings, 13,500; Gas cock gate removed by persons unknown, apparently deliberate; reported to police for investigation.

February 17, 1930--8:55 p.m.-9:15 p.m.; Meeker Ave.; False alarm; Saunders, occupant; Saw incinerator burning & phoned in fire call.

March 4, 1930--10:10 p.m.-11:20 p.m.; Waldwick; Store Building; Dry goods; Dr. Pittis, owner; Flynn, occupant; cause--?; asked for assistance by Waldwick Department.

March 8, 1930--1:40 p.m.-2:10 p.m.; Hillside & Crescent Avenue; House; A. Quackenbush, owner & occupant; cause--dirty chimney; no loss; chimney fire.

March 10, 1930--2 p.m.-2:15 p.m.; Central Ave.; Brush; J. Yeomans, owner; cause--RR; no loss.

( to be continued )

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Allendale Historical Society  
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Allendale Historical Society  
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Individual Membership	\$4.00

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