

ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

VOL. XIII

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NO. 1

NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 6, 1986 at 8:00 p.m. at the Allendale Municipal Building, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale (Second Floor).

PROGRAM: Bob Terry, President of the Upper Saddle River Historical Society, will be our guest speaker. He will present a program, with slides, about the history and what is planned for the Hopper-Goetschius House on the corner of Lake Street and East Saddle River Road. This remarkable sandstone house is an Upper Saddle River landmark with an interesting past, and an enthusiastic group of supporters who are working to guarantee its future. Please plan to join us for an interesting and informative meeting.

SOCIETY NEWS:

Over the summer the Society received, from Mrs. F. D. Hendrickson of King of Prussia, PA., a wonderful package of photos and other information about the Potter family and their home in Allendale. The information and photos were of such interest that we're including some in this newsletter in the article "The Potter Family and Their Home in Allendale." All of the photos and information received will be on display at our October meeting.

A reminder: If you have forgotten to pay your Society dues for 1986-1987 (due in May, 1986), please do so now! We have tried to keep our Society dues as low as we can (\$4 for individual members; \$6 for family memberships), but the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter rise with every issue, it seems! The printing and mailing of the newsletter is the single largest expense we have. If you'd like to continue receiving the newsletter, and if you haven't paid your current dues, please send a check, with your name and address, to The Allendale Historical Society, P.O. Box 294, Allendale, N.J. 07401. Many thanks!

The Society has published an "**Index to Allendale History and Heritage**," (our quarterly newsletter). The 54-page index covers the first 12 years of our newsletter publication (Sept. 1974 through April 1986). The index is divided into three sections: (1) general topics, alphabetically; (2) names of people, alphabetically; and (3) articles, by title, in chronological order, that have appeared in the newsletter. Three copies of the index have been donated to the Allendale Library (where they are available to the public), two copies have been donated to Brookside School, and two copies have been donated to Northern Highlands Regional High School. The Allendale Library and the two schools have received complimentary mailed issues of our newsletter since its inception, and have back issues on file. The index is also available for purchase (\$12.00, including postage) and a form for ordering it is in this newsletter, on page 8. If you've kept a file of back issues of our newsletter, this index will lead you to a particular article or information about a particular subject or person.

THE POTTER FAMILY AND THEIR HOME IN ALLENDALE

by Pat Wardell

In 1908 Jacob Storms sold, at his widowed mother's request, parcels of the land in Allendale that had been his deceased father's estate. According to a December, 1908 article in *The Ramsey Journal*, 53 acres were sold to W. C. Lee of New York; 14 acres were sold to A. Lawrence, of Allendale; 8 acres were sold to F. Kinsky of Brooklyn; 12 acres were sold to P. Critchley of Brooklyn; 17 acres were sold to Edward L. Rouse of Jersey City; and 32 acres were sold to G. M. Potter of New York.

George M. Potter and his wife, Harriet Marston Potter, contracted to have a house built on the 32-acre plot of land they had purchased from the Storms estate. This house still stands today, at 775 West Crescent Avenue in Allendale, although all of the surrounding acreage has been sold off through the years, and newer homes now surround the Potter homestead. The Potters kept a diary of the expenses incurred in constructing their house, and it reflects the 1908-1909 costs of building a handsome, well-appointed home: "Has cost up to Dec. 2nd, 1908—Land, \$1,250.00; Surveyor, \$65.00; Architect, \$63.00; Lawyer, \$68.00; Pump, \$22.50; Well, \$93.00; Simpson, \$9.15; Plowing, \$7.00; Carpenter, \$1,000.00-Dec. 10th. To be added: Contract for house, \$5,600.00; Gas fixtures, \$150.00; Grading, \$153.00; Cesspool, \$50.00; Extra shingles, \$31.00; Extra sheathing, \$35.00; Hardware, \$25.00; Hood for range, \$5.00; Chimney, \$25.00; Dust flues, \$5.00; Extra land, \$1,363.00"

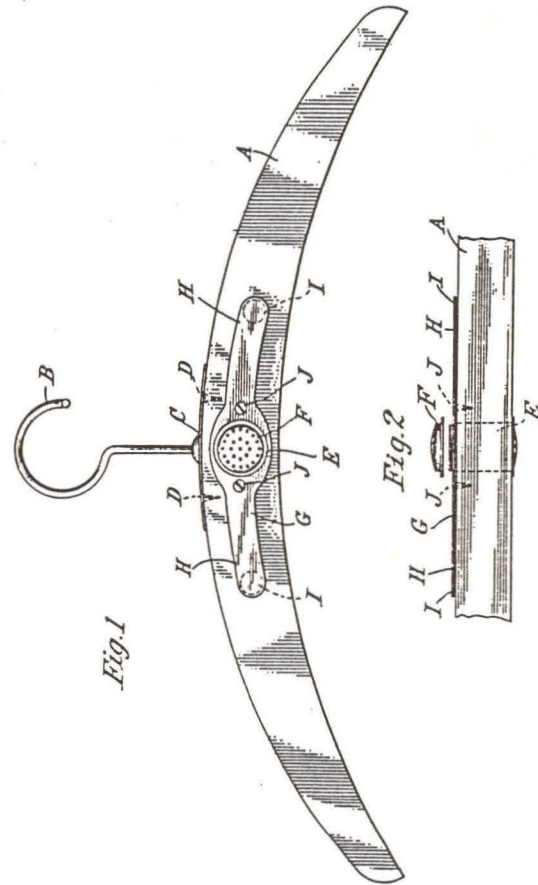
The land was apparently purchased in 2 parcels of about 16 acres each, as indicated by the notation in the diary of \$1,363.00 for "Extra land." In the July-Aug. 1908 issue of *The Parish Messenger* (a publication of the Church of the Epiphany) this item appeared: "Mr. Potter, now occupying the Cable Cottage, has bought 16 acres of the Storm farm, and will commence to build this fall."

The Potters, with their son, Marston, presumably moved into the home early in 1909. The grounds of the home were beautifully landscaped, with an adjacent pond; rustic wood fences, arbors, and bridges; wide, impeccably-groomed lawns; and extensive flower gardens and plantings. Over the years, additional improvements were made to the property, including garages and other outbuildings, a rustic gazebo/dock on the pond, tennis courts (constructed in spring, 1916 by contractor Henry Knack), and the building best-remembered by generations of Allendale scouts and young people: the "Cody" Log Cabin, named for William F. Cody ("Buffalo Bill"), who visited the Potters. Mrs. F. D. Hendrickson wrote in July, 1986 to the Society: "Buffalo Bill knew the family because Mrs. Potter's father was a famous gunsmith who made guns for Mr. Cody. I have an autographed picture which reads "to my little friend Marston, Buffalo Bill," and a copy of a book Buffalo Bill wrote....Marston was also given a rifle with

1,168,741.

H. M. POTTER.
GARMENT HANGER.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 5, 1915.

Patented Jan. 18, 1916.



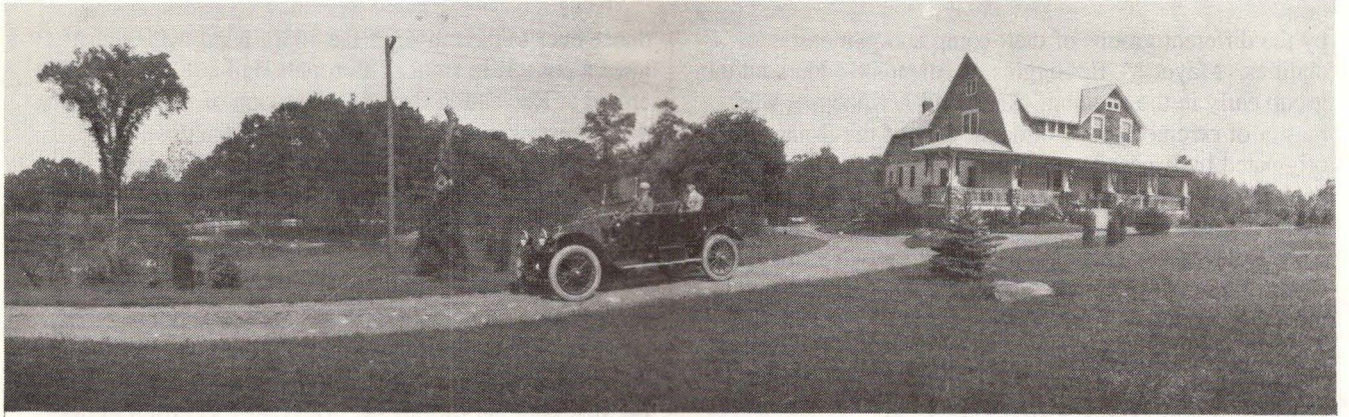
Inventor
Harriet M. Potter,
By her Attorneys
Keen, Page, Cooper & Hayward.

Above: The line drawing accompanying the patent for the garment hanger invented by Harriett Marston Potter.

Mr. Cody's name on it...Mrs. Potter's father was William Walker Marston, inventor of the repeating rifle, and also inventor of machines that improved the cutting of marble in Europe."

The Cody Log Cabin was an exciting meeting and camping-out place for many Allendale boys for a few decades, and many still remember it. Various groups, including scouts and Y.M.C.A. boys' clubs, met in the cabin or spent rustic nights sleeping there. *The Ramsey Journal* of December 18, 1919 reported that "Spencer Anderson, E. H. Appleyard, Watson Hall, Charles Hobbs, Dean Kay, Frank Miller, Richard Winters and Ray Zabriskie, Y.M.C.A. boys of Ridgewood, recently enjoyed a night's primitive life in Marston Potter's log cabin."

Mr. and Mrs. Potter were actively involved in many Allendale organizations. Among his civic activities, George M. Potter served as a member of the



The Potter home at 775 West Crescent Avenue, Allendale, circa 1915. Note pond at left (north of house).

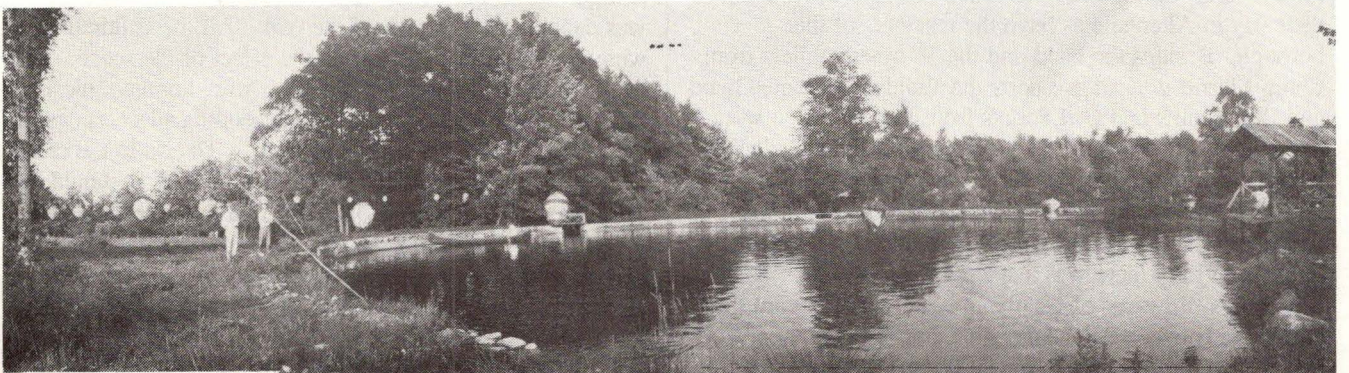
Allendale Library Association (he was elected vice-president of the Association in April 1919) and was on the Finance Committee of the Allendale Christmas Tree Association. Harriet Marston Potter was the leader of the Girls' Patriotic League in Allendale (she is shown in a 1919 photograph of the group—with the Potter home in the background—reproduced on p. 5 of the February 1985 issue of *Allendale History and Heritage*). The May 2, 1918 issue of *The Ramsey Journal* reported "Seventeen girls attended a meeting of the Girls' Patriotic League at the home of Mrs. Potter on Tuesday. The girls made gun cleaners for our soldiers and when they completed their work they had a little canoeing party on the pond adjoining the Potter's residence."

William Walker Marston was not the only inventor in the family; his daughter, Harriet Marston Potter invented a garment-hanger, which was patented January 18, 1916.

The Potters often entertained at their home, lavishly decorating for holidays, especially 4th of July and Christmas. A newspaper account in July, 1916 detailed one elegant party at the Potter home: "On July Fourth at about 8:15 in the evening, Mr. and Mrs. George M. Potter of Crescent Avenue gave one of the largest and most beautiful private parties ever seen in Allendale. Mr. Potter's beautiful grounds had been strung with electrically lighted Japanese lanterns. Around the pond, adjacent to

the residence, there were also hung lanterns and in a canoe there were many delightful "spooney" rides, limited to ten minutes. On the magnificent porch the party was grouped and suitable refreshments and cigars and cigarettes were to be had in abundance. The large living-room and dining-room had been artistically decorated. In this and on a platform erected off the south side of the house there was dancing. One of the main features was a splendid exhibition of fireworks."

About April or May 1934, Mrs. Potter sold the home to J. Burnett Jones, of Flushing, N.Y. Jones was president of a wholesale furniture company in New York City and was a member and former president of the New York Rotary Club. Soon after he moved into the former Potter home, he invited a group of underprivileged youngsters to spend the day enjoying his newly acquired estate. According to *The Ramsey Journal*, August 23, 1934: "One hundred and twenty five under privileged boys from twelve New York City clubs enjoyed the revived Woodcraft Day of the New York Rotary Club Tuesday at the estate of J. Burnett Jones, West Crescent Avenue, Allendale....The delegation arrived in three buses accompanied by twenty members of the New York Rotary. Highlights of the day were a steak roast on the large clearing in the woodland on the rear of the Jones property, a description by Roy Caniff of a hunting trip through the Bavarian Alps last year, and demonstrations



Potter's pond, 775 West Crescent Avenue, Allendale, circa 1916. Note Japanese lanterns strung on grounds.

by the different groups of their camp and gymnastic abilities. Mayor M. E. Higgins of Allendale addressed the group early in the evening. Raymond J. Knoepfel was master of ceremonies. Woodcraft Day of the Rotary [was] originated by Ernest Thompson Seton and was for years held annually at his estate in Wetschester. It was not held in the last few years. Jones was president of the New York Rotary five years ago, preceding by two terms L. Robert Stout of Ridgewood. Mr. and Mrs. Jones recently moved to Allendale from Flushing, L.I."

YESTERYEAR: ALLEDALE'S HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Labor Day, 1900: "The Labor Day games of the Allendale Athletic Association were held as promised and a big crowd was on hand to see them. The first event, a game of baseball between the boys of Allendale and Waldwick, was a failure on account of Waldwick having so much larger team. The boys of Allendale were all attired in new suits, but were altogether too small to play the Waldwick team that came, and the result was a withdrawal by the Allendales. The 100 yard dash was won by Master Fullerton. The apple race was won by Harold Ackerson and the 3-legged race by Nat McCreedy and George Nimmo. The greased pig caused the fun and there were four entries. After the pig had run around the square he made a bee line for the woods and was caught in the bushes by Nimmo. The best running broad jump was 17 feet 4 inches." ---*The Ramsey Journal*, September 7, 1900.

Fourth of July, 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 363rd Infantry, National Army. The parade was delayed in starting because the band of the 49th Infantry which we were to have had, sailed to France before the Fourth. In order to allow the 363rd 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 363rd band, which also gave a concert in front of 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." ---*Allendale Board of Trade Bulletin*, Vol. 1, No. 2, for August 1918.

Fourth of July, 1921: "Allendale celebrated Independence Day with old-time noise and honors. Late sleepers were given till 7 a.m. when the Fire Chief blew the siren, the Legion fired a salute of six bombs, and the firemen rang the fire hoops. The flag was raised in the park by the Boy Scouts. The morning parade included Mayor and Council, the band from the Lincoln School in Paterson, G. A. R. veterans Simon and Morrison, the local chapter of the American Legion, Boy Scouts, Sunday School delegations, the Firemen with drum and fife corps and apparatus, and the automobile section. After following the route to the Turnpike, Cottage Place, and returning to the ball grounds, Mayor Zabriskie spoke and President Dargue of the Board of Trade introduced the orator of the day, Captain Davis of the Army, who gave fitting tribute to the heroes of American history. The principal sport of the day was a double header ball game in which the local Legion team swamped the visiting Riversides of Hackensack. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Legion furnished refreshments. A good many availed themselves of the opportunity to enjoy the Borough's swimming pool during the day.

"About fifty families in the section around the park on the west side of town [today's Memorial Park] made it a safe and sane, but glorious Fourth, by giving a delightful celebration in the evening. A month previous an association was formed with D. Rathbun as president; B. Horack, secretary and treasurer; William J. Hill, chairman of fireworks; L. Marsh, chairman of refreshments; F. Neild, chairman of grounds; and W. G. Critchley, chairman of music. Bijou's band was brought from New York and furnished music from 8 until 11. The four sides of the park were strung with Japanese lanterns and lights were installed within the park, the Rockland Electric Company donating the power. A fine display of fireworks was set off during the evening, Messrs. Bogardus and Rahmer in charge. Refreshments were served from tables and there was dancing on the lawn of the park. All the children were given sparklers adding to the effect of the scene. The Mayor and Shade Tree Commission were honored guests. A good many hundred of the townspeople and guests gathered to enjoy the fireworks and music. To add to the credit due those who inaugurated this pleasant affair, it should be said that early on the day of July 5, the park was in as perfect order as before the celebration. It is hoped that next year this celebration will be on a larger scale to include the whole borough." --*The Ramsey Journal*, July 7, 1921.

Fourth of July, 1923: "The Fourth of July celebration this year will be under the direction of a committee appointed by the Mayor. Those appointed are:

D.P.C. Fisher, Charles Johnson, Henry C. Anthony, Daniel L. Dargue, P. W. Critchley, Wm. J. Hill, Rowland Turner, Frank Winter, Roy Quackenbush, and M. E. Higgins. This committee asked a representative of each organization in town to meet with them to insure the cooperation of the various organizations. There will be athletic games for the boys and girls in the morning; parade to the Recreation Park followed by a musical concert and baseball game in the afternoon. In the evening there will be dancing and fireworks. Plan to spend your Fourth of July at home." ---*The Ramsey Journal*, June 7, 1923.

Halloween, 1929: "On Saturday afternoon the pupils of the Third Grade enjoyed a Hallowe'en party given them by their teacher, Miss Helen Anthony, in the barn on Sunny Acres, the Berdan-Hamilton property on Orchard Street. All of the children of the class were present in costumes representing clowns, witches, and many other characters. The afternoon was spent in playing games as ducking for apples and others. The barn had been artistically decorated in a very "Hallowe'eny" spirit by Miss Anthony and Mrs. Hamilton, who also assisted Miss Anthony with the refreshments, which included candy and apples. The prize for the funniest costume was won by Eunice Whittle, and the prize for the prettiest by Mildred Atkinson. The children enjoyed the afternoon to the fullest extent and voted it the best time they have had for some time." ---*The Ramsey Journal*, November 7, 1929.

Washington's birthday, 1932: *From the souvenir program:* "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, by 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; Martha Custis--Wilma Abbott; Jack Custis--Patricia Peardon; Attendants--William Anderson and Mary Higgins; Clergyman--J. Berkeley Hunter; Guests--Edith Rahmer, Mdme. Frambach, Evelyn Simpson, Beatrice Springstead, Margery Mowerson, Hazel Lightbody, Sadie Semlear, Clifford C. West, Harriet Higgins, Elsie Rossner, Dorothy Alling, Katherine Quackenbush, Russell Mallinson, Mildred Kraemer, Violet Winter, William Kastenhuber, Laura Hubbard, Ethel Mallinson, Fred Weiss, Ethel Forshay, Anne Geismar. Episode 6: The Quilting Party--Beth Lightbody, Edna Ackerman, Margarey Griffiths, Henrietta Talman, Florence Forbes, Tilda Linke, Margery Forster, Marguerite Farrell, Jessie

Whittaker. Episode 7: Signing the Declaration of Independence--Edward Kent, John G. Hubbard, Harold Bayless, Charles Koman. Episode 8: The First Flag--J. M. Christopher, Russell Mallinson, "Billie" Aston, Fred Weiss. Episode 9: Washington at Valley Forge--J. M. Christopher. Episode 10: "Molly" Pitcher at Monmouth--Clara Flandreau. Episode 11: Cornwallis Surrenders--Herbert Flandreau, J. M. Christopher, John Taylor. Episode 12: The Inauguration--J. M. Christopher, Dr. C. H. Von Glahn, Clifford C. West, Edward Kent, William Kastenhuber. The Holiday Observers, 1932: Willard Alling, president; Caspar Komdorfer, vice-president; W. G. Z. Critchley, treasurer; John G. Hubbard, secretary; Fred C. Cotta, Harry Doolittle, Russell Mallinson, Herbert Flandreau, William Kastenhuber, Clifford C. West, J. Berkeley Hunter, Dr. H. M. Lampa, Frederick Weiss. Pageant Committee: Chairman, Willard Alling; Director, Grace M. Gordon; Asst. Director, Edward Higgins; Narrator, John Wenzel; Music, Maude Feldman; Irene Hunter, Harry I. Hand, Caroline Storms, Harold Bayles. Minuet coached by Lorraine Fisher. Costumes by Fred J. Wüstl. The Holiday Observers take 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."

Halloween, 1933: "The misses Betty Hamilton, Isabella Kent and Albertina Christian entertained at a delightful Hallowe'en party on Saturday night and held in the barn of Sunny Acres, which was decorated for the occasion. It was made very spooky with ghosts and goblins aplenty present. The prizes for the prettiest costumes were awarded to Hazel Rudolph and Eleanor Winter and the two prizes for the funniest went to Marjorie Kent and Roma Ruhl. Games were enjoyed including ducking for apples and other hallowe'en games after which refreshments were served by Mrs. Edward Hamilton, hostess, assisted by Mrs. Edward Kent, Mrs. Herbert W. Flandreau and Mrs. Christian. Guests were: Misses Eleanor Winter, Doris Albert, Eileen Carpenter, Mildred Atkinson, Dorothy Weise, Jennie Bajor, Irene Kaplan, Judith Flandreau, Joan Flandreau, Betty Gaston, Hazel Rudolph, Doris Rudolph, Betty Hinz, Wilma Abbott, Marjorie Kent, Jean Kent, Silvia Ruhl, Gloria Ruhl, Roma Ruhl, Junior Ruhl, Marion Holden, Dora Lamb, Junior Christian, William Christian, Edward Hamilton, David Berdan, Frank Berdan, Daniel Hamilton." ---*The Ramsey Journal*, Nov. 2, 1933.

From *The Ramsey Journal*, Sept. 9, 1926: "The Community Picnic Association expects to install a drinking fountain in Recreation Park in the near future, money left from the funds collected for the Community Picnic will be devoted to this purpose."

BUSINESSES IN ALLENDALE

Compiled by Pat Wardell

Some bits and pieces about some of Allendale's businesses—past and present. We know that this list is incomplete and hope that some of our readers can add information. What businesses do you remember?

A & B Stand (Crestwood Lake)

Operated at least during the summer of 1929 at Crestwood Lake. From an advertisement in the 1929 souvenir booklet of the Allendale Players production of "Officer 666" (commemorating the 1st anniversary of the Allendale Police Department): "A & B Stand. A Good Place to Eat. Crestwood Lake. New Jersey's Best Swimming Pool."

Ack's Tavern

Advertisement from "Guardians of Your Property and Welfare: Allendale Police," booklet published in January 1951 by the Allendale Press: "Ack's Tavern. Package Goods. Phone Allendale 1-3548."

Ack's Tea Room

Ad from 1929 souvenir booklet of the Allendale Players production of "Officer 666": "Ack's Tea Room. Real Roast Beef. Franklin Turnpike, Allendale, N.J."

Ackerman, Richard Vanderbeek—General Store

About the year 1872, Richard Vanderbeek Ackerman succeeded Morris S. Ackerman in his general store business in Allendale. (See p. 6 of the April 1986 issue of Allendale History and Heritage for a reduced reproduction of the store's billhead dated Jan. 3, 1876; R.V. Ackerman was thriftily using up Morris S.'s billheads and had crossed out the old name and penned in his own.)

Richard Vanderbeek Ackerman was born September 5, 1837 in New York City, the son of Abraham G. Ackerman and Catherine Vanderbeek. He died March 12, 1904 and was buried in Valleau Cemetery, Ridgewood. He married, first, on November 2, 1861 at Paramus, Caroline Ackerman, daughter of Col. Henry G. Ackerman and Ellen J. Zabriskie. She had been born February 27, 1840 (baptized April 1840, Saddle River Reformed Church), and she died December 31, 1898. They had children: Ellen Catherine Ackerman, b. 1863, m. Irving Hennion; Rachel Jane Ackerman, b. 1865, m. Jacob D. Mandigo; Abraham Ackerman, b. 1867, m. Anna Post; John H. Ackerman, b. 1871, m. Jennie A. Hennion; Mary Elizabeth Ackerman, b. abt. 1872, m. Henry G. Kraemer; Caroline Ackerman, b. 1875, m. Cornelius H. Bush; William Ackerman, b. 1877, m. Edna Ackerman; Margaret Ackerman, b. abt. 1879; Myra Ackerman, m. Chartre D. Mallinson.

After the death of his first wife in 1898, Richard V. Ackerman married Emma --?-- She was born about 1847 and died in April 1938.

The store stood on a site just west of the railroad tracks at the northern end of what is today Park Avenue and was apparently built in the early 1870s. *The Bergen County Democrat*, September 26, 1873, noted: "Mr. R. Ackerman has...erected a fine building, well stocked with every variety of goods, such as belong to a country store...," and an ad in the *1876 Walker's Atlas Business Index* proclaimed: "R. V. Ackerman, Dealer in Groceries, Flour, Feed, Coal, Boots and Shoes." Ackerman built an addition to his store in 1878, served 4 years as Allendale's postmaster beginning Oct. 1, 1885, built a new coal yard in 1886, had Allendale's first pay telephone installed in his store (it was the only Allendale telephone listed in the Ridgewood Central Office directory issued in September 1897), and built a large coal shed in October 1898.

About June, 1903, R. V. Ackerman sold the store to his son, John H. Ackerman. The Ackerman store was destroyed by fire on August 2, 1903 and was rebuilt that same year on a site slightly west of the old store (in recent years the building housed the Avenue Print Shop). *The Hackensack Republican* reported on the fire: "An old landmark was removed early Sunday morning, when the store and dwelling property of R. V. Ackerman was totally destroyed by fire. Miss Myra Ackerman was awakened a little after two o'clock by a sense of suffocation, and at first thought burglars were at work. She made three attempts to pass along the hall, before being successful, to her father's room, and had hard work in arousing the family. R. V. Ackerman has been in poor physical condition for several months, and was assisted down the stairs with much difficulty. In the meantime his son John, who lives nearby, was summoned, and when he and other neighbors arrived the flames had nearly full possession of the whole building. The smoke from the oil and other combustible material was heavy and thick, and it was impossible to enter the store. The account books, which were not in the safe, were the most important objects of solicitude, but could not be saved. The family had to flee in their night clothes, and very little was rescued from the dwelling rooms. Mr. Ackerman also lost his watch and several hundred dollars in cash that was in his room. About a month ago John Ackerman purchased the store from his father, and had just stocked it with a new line of goods. The loss comes very heavy on him, as he is only partially covered by insurance. The fire started in the rear of the store, but the cause has not been ascertained. The public telephone was destroyed, and the Western Union wires had to be cut to save them. An engineer of a freight train that was passing stopped and blew his whistle for fully ten minutes, which brought many neighbors to the scene, who worked heroically. The family desires to thank all through the columns of *The Republican*. John Ackerman has opened a store on the corner property near the barn, which was saved. Had the wind been blowing a serious conflagration could not have been prevented, and property near the depot would have been destroyed.

The Allendale borough safe had been stored in the Ackerman store, and after the fire a special meeting of the

Borough Council was called, according to council minutes of August 3, 1903, "to take some action in the placing of the safe of the borough, that was partially destroyed by fire in the store of J. H. Ackerman on August 2, 1903."

One pleasant development occurred as the result of the fire, for it was reported in the newspaper of August 13, 1903 that "a pretty sequel to the R. V. Ackerman fire was the marriage of his daughter, Myra, to Chartre Mallinson, on Saturday morning, by Rev. Mr. Knox. The young people had been engaged for some time. No date [had been] set for the wedding, but the circumstances of the fire, and Miss Ackerman's peril brought the young people to realize that they should be married at once. Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Ackerman have sent out notices announcing the event. Mr. and Mrs. Chartre Mallinson have gone to Boston and the Adirondacks on their wedding trip, and on their return will make their home with the bridegroom's parents."

Ackerman, John H.—Store

In June 1903, John H. Ackerman bought from his father, Richard Vanderbeek Ackerman, the general store at the northern end of Park Avenue just west of the railroad tracks. R. V. Ackerman had run this store for more than 30 years. Shortly after John Ackerman bought the store, it was destroyed by fire on August 2, 1903. (See above for newspaper account of the fire.) *The Bergen County Democrat*, on August 14, 1903 reported: "Mr. J. H. Ackerman whose grocery was destroyed by fire a short time ago is building a new store next to the old site."

John H. Ackerman was born February 26, 1871 in Allendale, the son of Richard Vanderbeek Ackerman and Caroline Ackerman. He died February 5, 1957 at Miami, Florida, and was buried at Valleau Cemetery, Ridgewood. He married, on November 18, 1891 at Airmont, N.Y., Jennie A. Hemion, daughter of Stephen W. and Mary E. Hemion. They had children: Mary Edna Ackerman (called Edna), b. 1893, m. Herbert J. Winter; Richard V. Ackerman, b. 1900, m. Maud Fraser; a child that died in infancy in 1901; and Henry Ackerman, died 1909. John H. Ackerman was a charter member of the Allendale Fire Association, served on the Borough Council, was first vice-president of the First National Bank of Allendale, and served as a director of the Orvil Co-operative Building and Loan Association (later the Allendale Building and Loan Association). The Ackermans lived on Park Avenue (in a house built at the time of their marriage) until 1919, when they moved to West Allendale Avenue. In 1933 they built a home on Elm Street.

John H. Ackerman sold his grocery stock to Winter Brothers in May, 1926, after which he did business under the name of Ackerman Coal and Fuel Oil Co. Ackerman was involved in the building boom that took place in the business section of Allendale in the mid to late 1920s. He converted his home on West Allendale Avenue into storefronts in April 1926. In May of the same year, Ackerman and Eugene Melchionna had started a new store building on West Allendale Avenue. *The Ramsey Journal* of Jan. 31, 1929 reported: "Mr. John H.

Ackerman has broken ground on West Allendale Avenue, where he will soon erect two new up-to-date stores." These were nearing completion in March, 1929.

The Ackerman Coal and Fuel Oil Co. did business in Allendale and Ramsey until John H. Ackerman's retirement in 1953, when he moved to Miami, Florida. His son, Richard V. Ackerman, was in business with him and he retired at the same time, also moving to Miami.

Tell us your wants and we will do the rest
Nothing better can be had in the line of
GROCERIES, TEAS, COFFEES, SPICES.
Butter and Cheese a Specialty.
Highest Grade of Pittston Coal on Hand
Flour, Feed, Hay, Etc.

John H. Ackerman

Tel. 94 L-1. ALLENDALE, N. J.

Ad from *The Parish Messenger* of the Epiphany Church, July & Aug., 1908

Ackerson Brothers—Painters

From an ad in the Field Day souvenir program, Labor Day, Sept. 6, 1920: "Ackerson Bros., Painters and Jobbers, Allendale, N.J."

Allendale Bakery

H. C. Bice was the proprietor of the "Allendale Bakery" in 1920, when he advertised in the Labor Day Field Day souvenir program booklet. By 1929, E. Scherb was running the "Allendale Bakery," and he advertised in the 1929 souvenir booklet commemorating the 1st anniversary of the Allendale Police Department and the Allendale Players' production of "Officer 666."

Allendale Bar and Grill

Michael Connelly, his wife Maude (known as "Mom" Connelly), and their five daughters came to Allendale from Passaic about 1935. He operated the Allendale Hotel. After his death in April 1938, his wife continued to run the hotel until about 1947, when Mrs. Braun, owner of the hotel, died. Mrs. Connelly then bought the Ackerman house on West Allendale Avenue. *The Ramsey Journal* reported, on May 15, 1947: "The Connelly family plan to live in the house, building an addition to the front to house the cocktail bar and lounge." A January 1951 ad in "*Guardians of Your Property and Welfare: Allendale Police*," a booklet published by the Allendale Press, read: "ALLENDALE BAR & GRILL, Mom Connelly, Prop., Allendale Ave., Allendale. Allendale 1-3197."

Allendale Coal & Lumber Co.

Jacob Muried Christopher and his brother, Richard J. Christopher, were in the coal and lumber business together by 1912, when they advertised as "Christopher Brothers," and sold "high grade coal, lumber, and building materials." The business was called "Allendale Coal & Lumber Co." by November 1922, when *The Ramsey Journal* reported that "The Allendale Coal and Lumber office owned by J. M. Christopher has been moved and a new office is to be erected of concrete block." They had moved into their new offices at 55 Park Avenue by the end of August, 1923.

(to be continued)

Index to Allendale History and Heritage, September 1974-April 1986

compiled by Patricia A. Wardell; 54 pages; 3 sections--(1) general topics, alphabetically; (2) names of persons, alphabetically; (3) articles published, by title, chronologically. \$12.00 per copy, shipping included.

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PERILS OF YESTERYEAR...

From *The Ramsey Journal*, August 28, 1919: "Miss Georgianna Van Houten, who had her wrist broken by cranking a flivver, is improving....Fred Grossman Sr., one of our hackmen, suffered a broken wrist while cranking his Ford last Thursday."

From *The Ramsey Journal*, Oct. 30, 1919: "The touring car of Rev. J. D. Kennedy decided to start on its own accord last Friday during its owner's absence. It landed in the Long Rack Brook near the Christopher bridge and it took a great deal of maneuvering to place it back on Park Avenue in the dry."

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

(continued from February 1986 issue)

April 4, 1930--11:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; Archer Hall; hedge plants; Church property; A.M.E. Church; cause--unknown; no loss on bldgs.

April 5, 1930--12:45-1 p.m.; Crescent Ave.; field; residence; Lee, occupant; cause--unknown; no loss on bldgs.

April 9, 1930--3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m.; Dale Avenue; young trees; residence; cause--unknown; no loss on bldgs.

April 25, 1930--12 noon-12:30 p.m.; Brookside Avenue; Brush; Smith, occupant; cause--unknown; no loss on bldgs.

April 28, 1930--2:30 p.m.-3 p.m.; Brookside Avenue; Brush; Hone, occupant; cause--unknown; no loss on bldgs.

April 28, 1930--5:30 p.m.-6 p.m.; Brookside Avenue; Hone, occupant; cause--unknown; no loss on bldgs; started up again.

May 1, 1930--3:30 p.m.-5:15 p.m.; Turnpike; woods; Mac Shmidt, occupant; started in Waldwick; no loss on bldgs.

May 3, 1930--6 p.m.-6:30 p.m.; Forest Road; woods; Schultz, occupant; cause--unknown; no loss on bldgs.

May 4, 1930--4:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m.; Forest Road; woods & dwelling; Ed. Thomas; extended to adjoining bldgs.; started in Ramsey; Call for assistance by Mahwah.

May 6, 1930--6:15 p.m.-6:40 p.m.; Crescent Ave.; Brush; Lutz, occupant; cause--RR; no loss on bldgs.

May 21, 1930--4:15 p.m.-4:35 p.m.; Turnpike; Brush; M. E. Higgins, owner; cause--RR; no loss on bldgs.

July 5, 1930--11 p.m.-3:20 a.m.; Park Avenue; Barn & garage; R. J. Christopher, owner & occupant; fire extended to adjoining buildings; cause--unknown.

July 17, 1930--5 p.m.-5:15 p.m.; Turnpike; refrigerator; W. Alling, owner & occupant; cause--short circuit; no loss on bldg.

(to be continued)

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

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