



ALLENDALE HISTORY AND HERITAGE

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SOCIETY NEWS

As president of the Society, Pat Wardell wrote a letter to the editor of *The Town Journal* asking for volunteers to keep the Allendale Historical Society alive. *The Town Journal* graciously published the letter and we received calls from seven Allendale residents, expressing interest. Five of them met with Pat Wardell and Jean Stein (two were unable to attend, but still expressed interest) on March 18. Those present were Pat Wardell, Jean Stein, Joanne Hart, Judy McKim, Don Strauss, Ed Murray, and Beth Fylstra. All of those present pledged to work to keep the Society going and agreed to meet again in May. Volunteers for offices were: Don Strauss, President; Judy McKim, vice-president; Joanne Hart, treasurer; and Ed Murray, secretary. If any other Society member wishes to volunteer to run for any of those offices, please contact Pat Wardell, 201-327-0605. If there are no other volunteers, the unopposed slate will take office at our May meeting of the board. We hope to hold two public meetings in the coming year. More information will be in the next issue of the newsletter. Local members: If you have ever considered helping the Society, now is the time to volunteer. Call Don Strauss, 201-934-7475 or Pat Wardell.

It is with great regret and sadness we report the death on April 2, 1996 of John Durie Webb, of Englewood, FL, formerly of Allendale (this editor's father). He had been an Allendale Borough Councilman and Borough Council president; a member of the Allendale Volunteer Fire Department, and president of the Allendale Exempt Fire Department. He was a charter member of the Allendale Historical Society.

Our thanks to Anna Cooper Christopher, who loaned the school photographs reproduced in this issue and the previous issue. If any reader can identify the years they were taken, or any of the students, please let us know. We are also indebted to Linda Mowerson Burrows, now of Stonington, CT, who wrote her memories of growing up in Allendale. They are published in this issue. ■

GROWING UP IN ALLENDALE

by Linda Mowerson Burrows

My life in Allendale began on Orchard Street where my parents told me they had an "X" on the curb, put there by hobos because they could get something to eat from them. This was in the early 1930s. My first real memory is in my next house, on Ivers Place, now called Ivers Road. The house is still there and looks the same. Across the street was Moellhausen's house and Grace was so good to me. In the woods, behind the house and out to Crescent Avenue, were lady slippers, pussy willows, violets, and water cress. What great bouquets for Mom — and water coming out of the ground that you could drink. There was another spring, I remember, on Crescent Avenue where the library and municipal offices are now.

We then moved to Oak Street, the last house before Christophers' stored lumber piles, across from the Brookside School where I was a student, following my father who had Mr. Alling as Principal also. After Mr. Alling was Mr. O'Connor. Remember Mrs. DeGraw and her wonderful peanut butter on crusts at recess? No one went hungry. My Dad was the milkman and 2¢ bought 1/2 pint of milk at school. It was special to stay for lunch.

Don Grossman, Don Lightweiss, Glen Hall, Pat Christopher, Janette Roberts and I used to play in the large dirt piles all day with small cars, making roads, etc., on the corner of Oak and Christopher Place. We'd go down behind our house to the brook and catch crayfish, minnows, and other creatures plus wade in the water, cross the brook, climb the fence (facing fearsome goats) and go through Fox's yard to Critchley's to play. Another group!

My grandparents, John and Emma Mowerson, built the house at 28 Brookside Avenue in 1907 and many of my days and nights were spent there. That house has been occupied by a Mowerson ever since it was built right up to the present. While at grandma's, I had the chance to help with the laundry! A wringer machine by the kitchen

sink. She had a "butler's pantry" which was so cold and always lined with pies or some other wonderful food. The iceman would come in his truck and we'd always ask for a chunk of ice to suck on in the hot weather; and Mr. Pitman delivered the vegetables. There was another delivery man, too, but I've forgotten him. (Somehow it seems maybe fish.)

Archer Church was a very big part of my life. My grandmother and her friends (Thimble Club), had me with them a great deal and these ladies put on luncheons in the downstairs of the Sunday School. I was lucky enough to be included, and I could help set the tables and sometimes help serve. We considered that church ours. Mr. Sawyer was Minister then and somewhat awesome. We'd run through the church and swing on the bell rope then hide behind pews when he came. I taught Sunday School there later on and was very active in MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship). It was a main social outlet for me as a young girl and I even got to go to Blairstown. Mr. Goodrich was the Minister then and a few years later performed my wedding ceremony. My children were baptized there and attended the same Sunday School I had.

While at my grandmother's in my 7th grade year, I got the mumps and stayed right there at her house for at least two weeks letting her have the sign on the door. Green it was for mumps. Remember those? I had them all. Pink, Red,

and Green are all I remember. (Chicken pox, Measles, German Measles, Mumps, and Scarlet Fever.) My books had to be burned after Scarlet Fever. What a heartbreak!

While still on Oak Street, when I was in about 5th or 6th grade, Christophers' house burned down on the coldest night of the year. The water froze as it came out of the hoses. We were up all night making coffee and trying to help in any way.

Dancing lessons, school, art work, music all went together. Mrs. Farrell was the art teacher and at Christmas time one year, we turned the large window in front of the Brookside School into a stained glass picture. That stayed up there for the whole winter! Mrs. Smithey taught music and we produced many Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. I was Yum Yum in *The Mikado*.

During the war years the air raids were scary and my Dad was a warden. Putting on his helmet and taking his light, he'd leave to be sure everyone had lights out. At the same time, my mother was working in a defense plant. We saved our pennies until we had a dime to buy defense stamps at school and filled our books to turn in proudly. We had rationed gas, sugar, tires, and everything else you could think of, but we saved. It was such a pulling together time.

We'd walk up to Donahue's to get eggs (Walter is still a crossing guard on Brookside Avenue) and then my good



Allendale School Class Photo. Teacher: Miss Helyn Anthony.

Front row, left to right: Appert, Hollenbeck, Cappel, Carpenter, Van Horn, Schmidheini, Horack, unidentified, Berdan, Ackerson.

Center row, left to right: Miss Anthony, Phair, unidentified, Rosner, unidentified, Forshay, Bogardus, unidentified, Miller.

Back row, left to right: Blackmore, Hunter, Dunkle, Hart.



Allendale School Class Photo. Teacher: Miss Hutchinson (Mrs. Hoppen).

Front row, left to right: Harriet Higgins, Colette Ocejo, Ethel Forshay, Anna Cooper, Edith Rahmer, Leola Strong, Marjorie Darken, May Miller, Evelyn Strong, Doris Winter.

Center row, left to right: Olin Christopher, unidentified, unidentified, Bill Lutz, Evelyn Pausin, unidentified.

Third row, left to right: Olin Melchiona, Novakoski, unidentified, Howard Webb, unidentified, Archie Gamble.

friend Ann Boulton and I would walk further to the gas station in Wyckoff for candy. We moved to Crescent Place next and I received a bicycle for Christmas. That was faster than walking! We'd even go up to the end of the street to see where the hobos had camped overnight — this was still going on in 1948. Those years were Ramsey High School years.

I ran the milk route often as my Dad wasn't well, and then would go to school. Cheerleading, sports, friends, Pellington's for ice cream — the '50s. Going downtown in Allendale before this was to Van Sickle's sweet shop, to see Charlie Bijou and shop in Allendale Grand Union, Dr. Kanning, Taddeo's shoe repair, and my friends, many of whom lived over the stores. There was Krafts Bakery, Zacs Confectionery store, Temperlyn's Pharmacy (for 5¢ cherry coke) where the restaurant is now, the Post Office (before it moved), Megnin's Garage, and a walk home up the old trolley track.

The '50s saw more changes and I married my high school sweetheart in Archer Church before it was torn down. My reception was at Pat Job's Crescent Terrace Inn (now a Spanish restaurant).

As a newlywed, I lived at 28 Brookside Avenue in the downstairs. My grandmother had moved to Park Avenue and memories were with me of the Memorial Day and July 4th parades, sitting on her porch and knowing everyone who went by, Mrs. Bentzen bringing me a Norwegian cone stuffed with whipped cream and, of course, the activities in the park across the street. All this came back to me, then, and my son was born there. We then moved to Harreton Road in 1958 to a new development in town. My daughter was born there.

Northern Highlands Regional High School was built and I was working for Dr. Schultz as his nurse, a job I would have for 30 years, first in his home and then in the new office building on Memorial Drive (now DeMercurio Drive). He was followed by Dr. Herschman, who is still there. My children will continue this story someday as one still lives in Allendale, and one lives in Ramsey. Three of my grandchildren are attending the Allendale schools. Imagine — my father, me, my daughter and now my grandchildren, all in Brookside School! Hillside School wasn't there for Dad or for me, and Crestwood Lake was a great ice skating lake in my

years (skating on the entire lake) and we were spiffy in our little short skating skirts and frozen legs!

People came from all over in the summer to swim. We could take our babies, in the late '50s, to the Allendale Pool behind the Brookside School (the pool is now gone). That was safer because of depth and size. Allendale Junior Woman's Club, and all the activities for many years, Girl Scouts with Mrs. Vesce, Brownies, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts with Mr. Buhlman and John Cebak, Church choir, Sunday School and the demise of the old Archer Church. So many memories. Such a wonderful life in a wonderful town — Lucky, lucky me! ■

SOME EARLY TEACHERS IN ALLENDALE'S PUBLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In the summer of 1974, Ella Appert (herself an early Allendale school teacher, and a member of a prominent Allendale turn-of-the-century family) made a list of the teachers she remembered in the Allendale Public School during the early years of the borough. Using her list as a base, we've compiled a schedule of early teachers and added a bit of biographical information where we were able.

1906-1907

Teachers unknown at this writing.

1907-1908

Mr. Willard Alling, teaching grades 7 & 8. Willard Alling was born about 1879 in Wyoming, PA and died 16 Nov 1940. He was a graduate of Harvard University and New York University Law School. He was admitted to the bar in New Jersey and New York and served an apprenticeship in the Hackensack office of Judge Zabriskie. He gave up a career in law for teaching because of his health problems.

He was a justice of the peace in 1920 and was Allendale's Tax Collector for about 8 years. He was president of the Allendale Holiday Observers in 1932. He married in 1909 Mabel Quackenbush. They lived on Franklin Turnpike in Allendale and had two children: Howard W. Alling (m. Katherine Dunn) and Dorothy Alling (m. Leon Kornhoff).

-?- *Sevrige*, teaching grades 5 & 6.

-?- , teaching grades 3 & 4.

-?- *Vreeland*, teaching Kindergarten, 1-2.

1908-1909

Same as previous year

1909-1910

Willard Alling, teaching grades 7 & 8.

-?- *Severidge*, teaching grades 5 & 6.

-?- *Rugge*, teaching grades 3 & 4.



Allendale School Class Photo. Teacher: Mrs. McKechnie.

Front row, left to right: Jean Megnin, Thelma Pinckney, Rosner, Schmidheini, Anderson, Peggy Geismar, Hazel Rudolph, unidentified, unidentified, Ben Post.

Center row: Mrs. McKechnie, Hartt, Dillon, unidentified, Bogardus, Klaschka, Melchionna, unidentified, McNeil, Rosner.

Back row: unidentified, LeBaron, Owen, Lightbody, unidentified, Phair, Berdan.

Miss Ella Appert, teaching Kindergarten-2. Ella M. Appert was born June 1888 in New York State, the daughter of Henry J. Appert and Ella B. Finn. She graduated from Trenton State Normal School and Teachers College of Columbia University. She taught school in Allendale, Passaic and Paterson, retiring in 1946. She never married. She died 2 July 1982; buried St. Luke's R.C. Cemetery, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ.

1910-1911

Willard Alling

-?- *Severidge*

Miss Ella Appert

-?- *Backus*

1911-1912

Willard Alling

-?- *Woodbridge*

Miss Ella Appert

-?- *Backus*

1912-1913

Willard Alling

-?- *Woodbridge*

Miss Ella Appert

Miss Anita Van Houten. Anita Van Houten was born 6 Mar 1892 in Allendale, the daughter of Stephen Terhune Van Houten and Georgianna Schneider; she died Jan 1972 at Wilton, CT. She graduated from the Allendale School 21 June 1906 and later graduated from the Trenton Normal School. She married Stanley Parkins Fisher, son of John Robert Fisher and Elizabeth Jane Toole. He also grew up in Allendale. ■

ALLENDALE HOUSES BUILT BEFORE 1940

Compiled by Pat Wardell

Compiler's Note: This "inventory" of pre-1940 Allendale houses has been compiled using information in the Society's files and in my own files. Very few of the houses have been systematically researched, so we know that for most of them, the information is incomplete. We would welcome any additions, corrections, updating, etc. from our readers, and will happily add such information to the Society's files.

Only houses still in existence today are included in this inventory. Houses are generally named for the earliest known owner/occupant. Names associated with a house are not necessarily always owners; some may have been tenants. Also, not all owners actually lived in houses they owned; some houses were leased for rental income. The houses are listed alphabetically by street names, then numerically by house number.

(continued from the January-February 1996 issue)

475 Franklin Turnpike

Fell-Ackerman-Cable House (*continued*)

Block 1809, Lot 14 (Old Block 35, Lot 44)

Mrs. Rose Pfister suggested during a 1974 interview that the Ackerman family, the Cable family, and the Taylor family (all consecutive owners of the house) were somehow related, but there is no evidence of this. She said that a son of the Cables had been lost at sea and had never been legally declared dead, and the Pfisters, in order to gain clear legal title, had to have this Cable son declared legally dead. Mrs. Pfister said that when they purchased the house and property in 1951 for \$42,000. it had been on the market for 8 years. Several years prior to 1974, Mrs. Pfister said, after she became legally blind, she moved out of the large house and winterized a small cottage in the rear, which she moved into. The large house and grounds were repeatedly vandalized and finally she bought a house in Florida and moved out of the small house. About 1971 vandals burned down the small house, she said.

There is a local story that Stephen Cable, in the 1860s, dug up on his property a box of coins dated before 1700. When asked about this, Mrs. Pfister said that there was a legend that gold bullion and coins lie buried in the terraced front section of the grounds — "But," she said, "I know what's there — the septic tank!"

Jean Paul Pfister told representatives of the Bergen County Historic Sites Survey team that early 20th century additions/alterations were made to the 475 Franklin Tpke. house around 1912 by the Taylor family. Additions included the north half of the center block and the west wing/veranda unit. The west wing is a design of mixed Colonial Revival/Dutch Colonial features. It has an attractive sweeping gambrel roof over the west veranda. The exterior clapboards of the older house may have been replaced around this time, as they match those on the 1912 west wing. Early 20th century additions to the property include cobblestone walls northwest of the house.

John Fell was a descendant of Symon Fell, a Huguenot from Dieppe, France, who in 1655 was living at New Amsterdam. John Fell was born in New York City on February 5, 1721 and attended public schools there. He married on December 2, 1749 in New York City (Trinity Church), Susannah Marshalk, widow of Charles Mackintosh (McIntosh). Fell was senior member of the firm Fell and Graham, doing business as traders and merchants at 2 Crugers Wharf, on the East River, New York City. He is said to have been engaged in trade by river boat on the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers, contacting the mills on the old Demarest tract and stopping at the Demarest Inn (on Franklin Turnpike, in what is today Ramsey) in the course of his business with the grist mills of the area. By 1759, Fell was the senior member of the merchant firm of John Fell & Co., in New York, at which

time the firm had several armed merchant vessels engaged in overseas commerce. About 1756, John Fell obtained a tract of 220 acres, being 32 chains by 69 chains in area, at "Paramus" in what is today Allendale. ["Paramus," the name given to a settlement surrounding the Paramus Church, at that time encompassed a much larger general area than the Paramus of today.] The boundaries of Fell's original tract of land are discernible today on the Tax Assessment Map of Allendale, although the tract has been greatly subdivided in subsequent years. Fell named his estate "Petersfield," probably after his son, and his house stood on the site of the present house at 475 Franklin Turnpike. It is highly probable that this present house incorporates either Fell's original house or the foundation of it, as portions of the existing house appear to be of Revolutionary or pre-Revolutionary age, and one of the older rooms in the house employs ship's masts as supports.

John Fell was appointed, on September 30, 1766, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Bergen County, in which capacity he served until 1774. He was an ardent supporter of the rebel cause and on June 25, 1774 he was the leader at a meeting of 328 Bergen County citizens who signed patriotic resolutions at the Court House in Hackensack. He was a member of the First Provincial Congress which met in Trenton in May, June, and August 1775, and in 1776 was chairman of the Provincial Council. On September 6, 1766 he was again appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Bergen County and he served in this position until 1786.

Because of his great patriotism and his reputation as a "great Tory hunter," on April 22, 1777 Fell was taken prisoner at his Allendale home by a band of 25 armed Loyalist raiders, and hurried to Bergen Point, where Colonel Abraham Van Buskirk was in command of the British forces. Fell and Van Buskirk had known each other before the war and when Fell was brought before Van Buskirk, the Colonel gave him a letter to General Robertson, in New York, which Van Buskirk claimed would insure proper treatment for Fell. Fell was taken to New York and confined in the provost jail, where he underwent harsh and severe treatment. Apparently General Robertson did not see Fell until December 8, at which time Fell presented Van Buskirk's letter to the General. Robertson read the letter with a curious smile and handed it back to Fell, who discovered that the essence of the letter was that "John Fell was a great rebel and a notorious rascal." As it happened, Fell and Robertson had made each other's acquaintance years before, during the French War, and the General said, "You must be changed indeed, John Fell, if you are as great a rascal as this Colonel Van Buskirk." Fell was paroled on January 7, 1778 and was finally permitted to go home on May 11, 1778.

On November 6, 1778 John Fell was elected by the New Jersey Legislature to serve as a New Jersey delegate to the Continental Congress. He was reelected May 25 and December 25, 1779. He attended Congress steadily

from Dec. 5, 1778 to November 28, 1780, during which time he cast 256 votes. He served on various special committees, but his main work was on a standing committee of five to conduct the commercial affairs of the United States. He voted steadily for economy, sound finance, and the increase of national authority. While serving in Congress, Fell kept a diary from November 6, 1778 to November 30, 1779, the original of which is in the Library of Congress. (The diary was printed in book form in 1973 as Delegate From New Jersey: The Journal of John Fell, edited by Donald W. Whisenhunt, published by the Kennikat Press, Port Washington, N.Y.) During 1782 and 1783 Fell served as a member of the New Jersey Legislative Council. His name appears on the Tax Rateable Lists for Franklin Township in Bergen County in 1779, when among his holdings were listed 220 acres of land, 14 horses and cattle, and a riding chair. He is found in the Rateable Lists in subsequent years (in 1791 his holdings included 160 acres of improved land, 60 acres of unimproved land, 2 horse, 9 horned cattle, a riding chair, and a pleasure sleigh) until 1793 when, on November 1, he sold his estate to John H. Thompson of New York City.

Fell moved to New York City and subsequently to Coldenham, New York, where he died on May 15, 1798 at the age of 77 years and 15 days. He is buried in Coldenham Cemetery.

John Fell and his wife Susannah had at least three children: Peter Renaudet Fell, Susannah Fell, and Elizabeth Fell. Fell's wife Susannah had two children by her first husband: Phineas MacIntosh (who married Amy Hawxhurst and lived in or near Chester, Orange County, NY) and Susannah MacIntosh (who married in 1771 at Paramus Reformed Church, Nathan Smith).

Peter Renaudet Fell, son of John and Susannah Fell, was born about 1752, and was a Lieutenant Colonel of the First Regiment of Bergen County Militia during the Revolution. After the war he became hopelessly crippled with rheumatism and he retired to Coldenham, N.Y. where he died on October 6, 1789 at the age of 37 years. He had married in 1781, Margaret Colden, daughter of Cadwallader Colden and Elizabeth Ellison, and granddaughter of Lieutenant-Governor Cadwallader Colden of New York. Their children were: Elizabeth Fell, born in N.Y. (married her cousin, William Colden); John Fell, born in New York (married and had children); and Susan Fell, born at Paramus (probably at John Fell's Petersfield Estate) (married Charles Rhind). Peter R. Fell's widow, Margaret Colden Fell, married as her second husband, Peter Galatian (Gallatin).

Elizabeth Fell, daughter of John and Susannah Fell, married, on October 13, 1774 (N.Y. Dutch Church), Cadwallader C. Colden, son of Cadwallader Colden and Elizabeth Ellison, and brother of Peter R. Fell's wife, Margaret Colden. Elizabeth Fell died before October 9, 1793, on which date a license to marry was granted Cadwallader Colden and Christina Griffith.

series to be continued next issue



This photo of the house at 125 East Orchard Street was taken about 1910-1912. The house was built in 1908 for Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Kingsland Merrill. Mr. Merrill was employed by the United States Steel Company. He was a hobby boater, and was said to be an expert navigator. He was a member of the North River Power Squadron and a member of the Masonic Lodge of Ramsey. He served on the Allendale Board of Health and as treasurer of the Allendale Christmas Tree Association. He was a member of the Allendale zoning board, and a director of the Allendale Savings and Loan Association. He and his wife were charter members of the Borough Dramatic Club (later the Allendale Players).

After he retired, the Merrills sold their Allendale home and built a winter home at Boca Raton, Florida. He was at his summer home in Weekspaug, RI in May 1954 when he died (they had summered there since 1921).

This photo was sent as a gift to the Society in March 1996 by H. R. Hofman, for his mother, Lois (Merrill) Hofmann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose K. Merrill, who grew up in the house and who now lives in Naperville, IL. We are grateful for the donation.

GRADUATES OF THE ALLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

(continued from January-February 1996 issue)

Graduating Class of 1915

(From *Programme of Annual Commencement of the Allendale Public School*. Graduation held at Archer Hall, Wednesday Evening, June 23rd, 1915, at eight o'clock.)

Mildred Barrett	Arthur Quackenbush
William Buhlman	Marian Robertson
Marjorie Dexter	George Rudolph
Florence Dunkel	Ruth Taylor
Dorothy Hutchinson	John Winters
Marie Megnin	

Graduating Class of 1916

(From Commencement Program. Graduation held at Archer Hall, June 22, 1916.)

Sara Anderson	Andrew Mowerson
Edna Bloomer	Raymond Scholz
Kenneth Fisher	May Selfridge

Grace Hubbard
Marjorie Hutchinson
John Knack

Ina Van Horn
Georgianna Van Houten

Graduating Class of 1917

(From Commencement Program. Graduation held at Archer Hall, June 21, 1917.)

Edgar Austin	Frank Megnin
Lewis P. Barnes	Ethel P. Price
M. Adelaide Couch	Howard M. Rudolph
Walter R. Hillman	Winifred Tomalin
Leon Kornhoff	Otto J. Vanderbeek
Charles Megnin	

Graduating Class of 1918

(From *Commencement Program*. Graduation at Archer Hall, June 20, 1918.)

Gunnar Anderson	Mary Hutches
Betty Anthony	Mabel Knack
Albert Bijou	Clara Nealis
Gillette Clark	Reginald Quackenbush

Anderson (or Adeline) Dunkel

Edna Grossman

Rose Holman

Gertrude Robinson

Mary Robinson

Jennie Ward

Elwood Brown

Jessie Hanlenbeck

Daniel Hunt

Ruth Johnson

William Talman

Muriel Van Derbeek

Wilbur Van Derbeek

Charles Webb

to be continued next issue

Graduating Class of 1919

(From Commencement Program. Graduation at Archer Hall, June 19, 1919.)

Mildred Ackerson

Preston Asten

Mildred Boungard

Ethel Braun

Edith Price

William Robinson

Bradford Slackbower

Allen Smith



The series "1910 Federal Census, Borough of Allendale" will continue in the next issue.

Allendale Historical Society
Officers and Chairmen, 1995-96

President: Pat Wardell

Vice President:

Treasurer: Jean Stein

Secretary: Bonnie McKenzie

Trustees: Annette Baum, Jeanne Cotz

Committees:

Newsletter Editor: Pat Wardell

Allendale Historical Society
P.O. Box 294, Allendale, NJ 07401

Annual Membership Dues: \$5.00 for membership from May through the following April.

The newsletter, **Allendale History and Heritage**, is published four times a year about September-October, December, February-March, and April-May, and mailed to members of the Allendale Historical Society. The Society is currently inactive and holds no general meetings. Volunteers are needed to reactivate the Society.

From: Allendale Historical Society

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