

Allendale In 1776

Wampum 'Factory'

"Allendale in 1776" is one of a series of articles designed to increase area residents' historical knowledge of northwest Bergen in hopes of generating interest in the upcoming national Bicentennial celebration in 1976.

By SUSAN BOMER

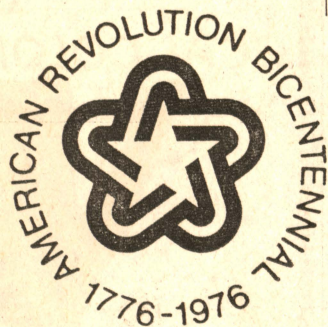
ALLENDALE — Once the home of the Leni Lenape Indians of the Algonquin tribe, Allendale in 1776 was one of many sparsely settled communities comprising Franklin Township.

The first inhabitants of Allendale were the Pompton, Tappan and Hacki Saks tribes of the Leni Lenape ("original people") Indians. The Indians engaged in friendly trade with the first Dutch settlers, exchanging their furs and grain for the settlers' factory-made wampum, which served as money for the Indians.

Johannas Stolz, the owner of the wampum factory, had discovered around 1720 that with their superior tools, the few settlers could manufacture the small purple clam shell tubes more quickly and easily than their less efficient neighbors. Stores of

the wampum were discovered in 1916 in the southwestern part of the borough.

The area remained a vir-



tual wilderness until around 1740, when most of the land now comprising the borough was purchased from the Indians by John Lauback, English, and Powles Van Houten, Dutch. From them it passed to Joseph and Henry Mallinson whose descendants still live in Allendale.

Legend has it that an unknown Frenchman preceded Lauback and Van Houten as owner of the land, but the only evidence of occupation by the Frenchman was a box of 17th century coins discovered in the 1890's by

Stephen Cable, who purchased what supposedly was the Frenchman's land near the Franklin Turnpike.

Revolutionary activity was scarce in Allendale, as were settlers. In 1776, the whole of Franklin Township had fewer than 50 households. Skirmishes between Continental and British troops did occur in Paramus, and soldiers of the Continental Army were quartered in parts of Franklin Township.

Allendale had no form of local government until after the war, in 1798, when it became an official part of Franklin Township, named after William Franklin, last royal governor of New Jersey and son of Benjamin Franklin. Not until 1894 was Allendale incorporated as a borough.

The oldest street in Allendale, Franklin Turnpike, was chartered and built in 1806. A toll road, it stretched from Waldwick (New Prospect) to Mahwah (Ramapough) and provided a profitable business for the farmer living near the tollgate who often used his team of oxen to haul heavy wagons up the steep incline.



An old-fashioned well now stands on the site where a tollgate stopped travels on Franklin Turnpike during the early 1800s. The farmer who lived near the tollgate ran a profitable business using his team of oxen to haul heavy wagons up the steep incline.

Redgewood News - Jan. 10, 1974