

## GET TO KNOW YOUR TOWN.....A Capsule History of Allendale

If the few square miles which now, in 1970, are called "the borough of Allendale" were to be called by their earliest known colonial name, it would have to be New Barbadoes. In October 1693, the division of the original four New Jersey counties into townships resulted in the naming of three townships in this area: Hackensack, New Barbadoes and Bergen. The next name change came in 1767 when that part of New Barbadoes township containing what is now Allendale was incorporated as Franklin Township. On February 5, 1849 what is now Allendale, along with much surrounding territory, was set off from Franklin Township and designated as HoHoKus Township. In April of 1885 these few square miles were once more divided and the resulting area, including "Allendale" was called Orvil Township. Finally, on November 8, 1894, our town was officially incorporated and designated as the borough of Allendale. The name was chosen to honor Colonel Joseph Warner Allen, who surveyed land on which the railroad was positioned in the mid-nineteenth century.

Of course, "Allendale" had existed by that name for some time; in fact, Allendale's Post Office was established in 1869 with Smith Roswell as our first postmaster--long before we made Allendale "legal" in 1894. Naming smaller areas within townships was common in those days and many small villages cropped up within the township limits, each known by a special name: Ramseys, New Prospect (Waldwick) and Hopperstown (HoHoKus) to name but a few.

The people were here long before "Allendale" was Allendale: the Ackermans, the Archers, the Cables, the Christophers, the Gambles, the Garrisons, the Mallinsons, the Quackenbushes, the Van Houtens, the Zabriskies and many more.

In 1806, what had been only a rough wood road was chartered as a toll road running from New Prospect (Waldwick) to Ramapough (Mahwah) and what we know today as Franklin Turnpike was born. It continued as a toll road until the end of the Civil War, when the toll was discontinued. The toll house stood at the south corner of Franklin Turnpike and West Crescent Avenue until about 1932.

In 1826 a one story frame building 16 x 24 feet was erected at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Franklin Turnpike; this was Allendale's first schoolhouse. In 1860 a new building was erected and the old building was moved to John Wilson's farm and used as a granary. In 1896 a new four room stucco building was erected and in 1914 an addition was added at a cost of \$24,000. This building is now our Municipal Building. In 1929 Brookside School opened with 225 pupils.

--Pat Wardell

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act to know your town...A capsule history of Allendale (continued)

Before the middle of the nineteenth century, the Paterson and Ramapo Railroad organized to connect the Erie (Suffern) and the Paterson & Long Dock (Paterson) Railroads. The land was surveyed, the tracks laid, and the Paterson and Ramapo Railroad began running regularly on November 1, 1848. The opening of the railroad was, in effect, the first step on the road to the gradual change of farmland into suburb; it put Allendale on the map. Allendale's original station was built about 1850 on the east side of the tracks. In 1870, a new station was built on the same site, and in the early 1900's the station was moved across the tracks to its present location.

Allendale's first two organized churches were the Episcopal Church and the Methodist Church. The Episcopal Church was first organized as a Sunday School in the home of Mrs. Stephen Cable (475 Franklin Turnpike--now the home of Mrs. Rose Pfister) in 1872. After a short time the school grew to more than 70 people and make-shift quarters were set up in a barn belonging to John J. Zabriskie opposite Cable's house. This was known as "Hope Chapel" and the first service was held here by Rev. L.R. Dickinson on Sept. 14, 1873. In 1874 Mrs. Cable donated a plot of ground across the road from her home for a new chapel. Foundation walls were laid on this property in Dec. 1875 and the first service was held in the new chapel on June 11, 1876. In 1894 the chapel was moved from its location on the corner of Franklin Turnpike and Cottage Place to its present location on the northeast corner of Franklin Turnpike and Orchard Street. In 1902 plans were begun for the addition of a Parish House and in 1907 the church building was enlarged and joined to the Parish House. This building is now the Highlands United Presbyterian Church, and the Church of the Epiphany is housed in its new building on West Crescent Avenue.

The Archer Memorial Methodist Church was erected by O.H.P. Archer in 1876; on June 8, 1876 the chapel was dedicated for church services. In its infancy, the church was part of a circuit which was comprised of several churches in the area, with the Waldwick Methodist Church as the mother church. In 1886 a full time minister, W.R. George, was assigned to the Archer Church, and it was about this time that Archer Hall was erected and used by the church, as well as for various community activities. In 1893 the chapel was considerably enlarged and several memorial windows were added.

On Christmas morning of 1909 a disastrous fire on Myrtle Avenue destroyed several buildings and one family barely escaped death. On New Year's Eve 52 townsmen met and formed Allendale's first organized Fire Association; by Jan. 24, 1910 a constitution had been adopted and the Allendale Fire Association was incorporated. On Oct. 12, 1912, Mrs. Margaret Yeomans donated a plot and on April 5, 1913 the cornerstone of the Firehouse was laid. During the twenties the firehouse served as a community center; movies were shown there, plays were given, dog, radio and pet shows were held, and graduation exercises were conducted. On March 7, 1963, the firehouse burned, and in May of 1964 a new firehouse was erected on the same site.

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