



ARCHER MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH as it appeared in an 1894 photograph, long before Franklin Tpk. and Allendale Ave. were blessed with pavement of any kind, East Allendale Ave. runs back at the right of the picture, while the turnpike crosses in the foreground.



O. H. P. ARCHER, Erie railroad official, active in civic affairs in New York and a Summer resident of Allendale, who donated Archer Memorial Church to the Methodists of the borough.

“On the other hand, we know that these people missed something, too,” Mr. Brower continued. “Any time a person gives money to his church he essentially is giving a part of himself. In this sense, pledging becomes a privilege.”

Besides providing necessary repairs for the original buildings, the money raised will be used to cover debt and interest payments on the Wesley Center, the new 12 room education building which was dedicated last December. A portion of the funds will also go toward completing sidewalks and improving the church's parking facilities.

According to the Rev. Franklin W. Thurston, pastor, early records show that the first sacrament performed in 1876 was the baptism of Augusta Connor Smith, girl of 3, who had been born in Hong Kong. At that time, the sanctuary was still uncompleted and the ceremony took place “on a floor of wood shavings beside a font placed on a carpenter's bench.”

In the years since, Archer's 14 ministers have performed 856 additional baptisms, officiated at over 4,500 Sunday morning worship services and 396 marriage ceremonies.

NAMED FOR ENGINEER

The municipality was named after Colonel William C. Allen, a railroad engineer who surveyed the route of the Paterson and Ramapo railroad. In addition to doing the surveying in 1846, Colonel Allen supervised construction of the road. Coming of the new route in 1850 was celebrated, because up to that time the nearest railroads were the Erie, which ran its tracks down to Suffern and then over to Piermont, and the Long Dock Railroad, that ran from Jersey City to Paterson.

The new link joined Paterson with Suffern, and although it was a narrow gauge line, it was later enlarged and now has four tracks, all part of the Erie system.

It was not until 1894 that Allendale became known as such, and had its corporate independence. Until that time it was part of Orvil Township.

INDIAN DEAL IN 1740

Incorporation took place long after John Lauback and Powles Van Houten first established homes here, by buying land from a Delaware tribe of Algonquin Indians in 1740.

The incident that led to incorporation of Allendale, occurred when Franklin Township decided to erect a new school and place it at the township seat, now Waldwick. The other sections broke away and built their own schools and otherwise set up independent governments.

Peter D. Rapelje was Allendale's first mayor

Allendale erected its own school in 1895, replacing one erected in 1824 by the Township. The present school was built in 1928-29.

Electricity came in 1910, water in 1914, and gas in 1925. The fire department was organized in 1910.