

POST-REVOLUTIONARY YEARS
— 1784-1839 —

Paulus Van Houten, who was killed in the War of 1812, was one of Allendale's early landowners. His brother, John H. Van Houten, a Revolutionary veteran, and a farmer and wheelwright by occupation, came to Allendale in 1792 and later purchased land here. He was the son of Helmigh Van Houten and Eva Rutan. John married Margaret Mickler, the daughter of John and Margaret Mickler, and they had two children: Paul Van Houten, who married Rebecca Demarest, and Margaret Van Houten, who married John Laubagh. The Van Houten house, long gone, stood near the site on which the train depot was later built.¹

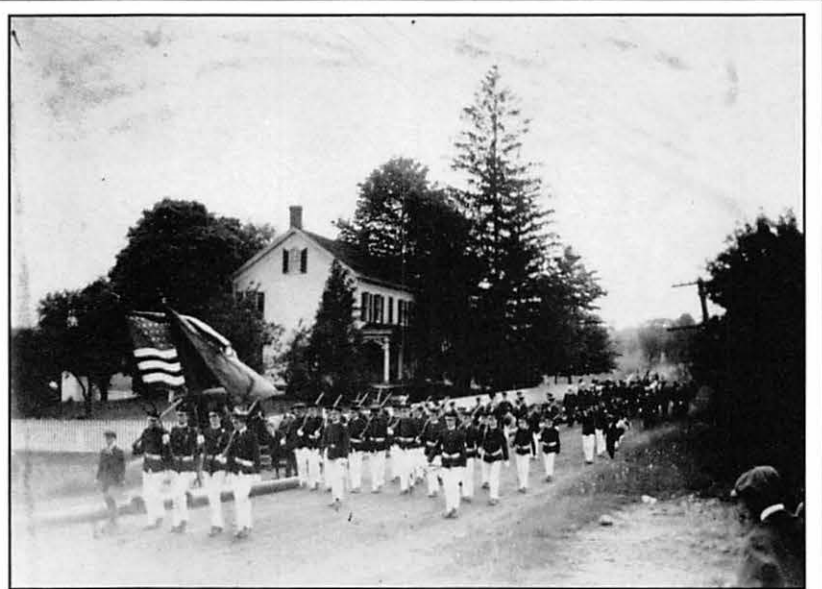
In 1793 John Fell sold his Petersfield estate to John H. Thompson of New York City. Fell moved first to New York City and later to Coldenham, N.Y. to live with or near the family of his deceased son, Peter, who had in 1781 married Margaret Colden, grand-daughter of Lieut.-Gov. Cadwallader Colden. John Fell apparently lived there with his three grandchildren until his death on May 15, 1798.

The first estate inventory on record at the Court House in Hackensack is the 1804 inventory of the belongings of Peter Tebow, who lived and owned property in the area of Allendale and Waldwick. This Peter Tebow probably was the son of Ryer Tebow and his wife Abigail DeBaun. The inventory is not one of a typical area resident, for Tebow by the time of his death was a very well-to-do individual, but the inventory is interesting because it shows some of the items in a local household of the time (including in which room of the house they were kept), as well as their value at that time.

The inventory was taken March 2, 1804 and records the "good[s], chattles, rights and credits of Peter Tebow, late of the Township of Franklin in the County of Bergen." The inventory was made at the direction of Susanna Tebow, widow of the deceased and also his administratrix, and John Van Blaricum

[Van Blarcom] and Abraham Quackenbush, administrators named in the will. The appraisal was made by Abraham Westervelt and Henry A. Hopper. Spelling is as in the original as far as can be deciphered.

First listed were the "good[s] and chattles" in the kitchen: 1 Negro male slave, named Sam, \$275; 1 Negro male slave, named Lamore, \$250; 1 Negro



This c. 1915 photo of an Allendale parade shows the Van Houten-Yeomans Homestead on West Allendale Avenue (next to Recreation Park). Paul J. Van Houten built this farm house about 1869. He erected it near the site of the original house built here by John Van Houten about 1792, which stood slightly east of the present house. Paul's daughter, Margaret, married John L. Yeomans, and they owned the house beginning 1870.

female slave, named Phillis, \$162.50; 1 Negro female slave, named Dine, \$75; 1 Negro boy, named Ben, \$62.50; 1 Negro girl, named Gin, \$35.; 1 Negro male child named Jack, \$25; 1 Bedstead and bedding, 1 Slaubank and bedding, \$1.50; 1 small dresser and furniture thereon, \$1.25; 5 chairs, rocking cradle, 1 small cupboard, \$1.50; Table, Lanthorn, 1 gun, 1 pr. and irons, \$3; 1 fire shovel, 1 pr. fire tongs, 1 gridirons, 75¢; 1 Trammer, 3 iron pots, 1 spinning wheel, \$5; Iron

Tea Kettle and 6 metal Molers, \$1; 1 Griddle, 1 server, 1 skillet, \$1.50; 2 Kitchens, 2 Smooden Irons, \$1.75.

Second, "In and About the Barn" were 1 black horse, \$62.50; 1 black mare, \$50; 1 Brown horse, \$37.50; 1 Bay colt, \$35.; 1 Windmill, 1 Cutting Box, \$9; 2 Dung Forks, 2 Hay Forks, 3 flails, \$1.12; Rye in the sheaf, \$16; Hay, straw, and corn stalks in the Barn, \$10; 20 Hens, \$2.50; 1 Waggon and Harness, \$25; 1 Pleasure Sleigh, 2 Wood Sleds, \$7; 1 Harrow, 1 Cracklin, 1 Ladder, \$1; 1 Yoke of Oxen and yoke, \$35; 1 Brown Cow, \$15; 1 Brindle Cow, \$13.75; 1 Brown Cow, streak over the back, \$13.75; 1 Brown Cow, star in the forehead, \$13.75; 1 Red Cow, \$12.50; 3 Heifers, 1 two year old, and 1 one year old, \$16.25; 1 Lot of Flax, Barn, and yarn in the House, \$3; 1 Lot of Hemp and ressd., 50¢; 5 Shoots, \$10; 8 Geese, \$2.50; 15 Sheep, \$30.

Third, "In the Store Room or Work Shop" were 1 Saddle and Bridle, side Hoppel &c., \$1.75; 1 Cross Cut Saw, 1 Plough Share, \$4; 3 Augers, 1 Narrow Ax, 75¢; 2 Spades, 5 Hoes, \$2.25; 2 Cradles, 7 Scythes and Sneaths, \$2; 1 Tar Bucket, 2 Casks, 50¢; 2 Bee Hives and old Iron, 1 Rope, 25¢; 2 Raw Hides, \$1.50; 1 pr. Sledrunners, plow share & sawed timber, \$3; 2 Casks, 3 Axes, 1 Half Bushel Measure, \$2.37.

Fourth, "In the Celler" were 1 Hogshead and one Barrel, \$2; 2 Powdering [indecipherable word] Tubs, \$3; 1 Weaving Loom, Reeds, gears and all the furniture thereunto belonging, \$12.50; 1 Soap Cask and soap, \$1; 1 Salt Chest, Salt and two old Bee Hives, 50¢; Soal and upper leather, \$2; 1 Cask with Hemprud and Churn, 50¢.

Fifth, "in the Yard" were 1 Grindstone, lye Cask and old beehives, \$1.25; 3 Beehives with Bees, \$6; 1 Plough Share and Clevis, \$1.50; 1 Draw Bench and Corn in the Crib, \$12.50.

Sixth, "In the Blacksmith Shop" were Blacksmith's Tools, Iron and Steel in the same, \$34.

Seventh, "in the Milk Room" were 6 Pails, 3 Keelers and churn, \$1.25; 1 Table, 1 Bake Tray and 2 Hives, 50¢; 1 Scale and Weights and 2 Woolen Wheels, \$2.25; 1 Washing Tub and old pail, 25¢.

Eighth, "in the Garret" were 1 Chest with Flaxseed, \$3; 20 Bushels of Buckwheat, \$7.50; 4 Bushels of Oats, \$1; 1 Keeler, 2 small scoops, 10¢; 7 Bags, \$2.25.

Ninth, "in the Parlor" were 1 Eight Day Clock, \$50; 1 Bedstead, Bedding, Curtains and Blankets and all the furniture thereunto belonging, \$20; 1 Table, 1/2 Doz. Windsor Chairs, \$7; Glass, China and Earthen Ware in the Closet, \$1.50; 1 Bottle Case with 12 Square Bottles, \$1; Wearing apparel of the deceased, \$13.

Tenth, "in the Hall" were Large Cupboard and one small chest, \$5; 1 Looking Glass, \$1.

Eleventh, "In the 1st Bed Room" were 1 Bedstead and Bedding, \$6; 1 Looking Glass, 1 Bottle Case, 50¢.

Twelfth, "In the 2nd Bed Room" were 1 Bedstead and Bedding, \$2.50; 6 Bushels of Rye, \$3.75; 1 Dresser, \$1.

Thirteenth, "in the Dwelling Room" were 1 Bedstead and Bedding, \$12; 1 Spinning Wheel and 2 Reals, \$2.50; 1/2 Doz. Chairs, \$2; 1 Corner Cupboard and all one and in the same, \$1.50; 1 Spoon Case, 12 Spoons, knives and forks, \$1; 2 Books, 1 pr. of and irons, \$2; 1 pr. of Fire Tongs and shovel, \$1; 1 Sliflyer, \$1.50.

In addition to goods and chattles, the inventory lists debts owed by Jacob Van Reyper, Alexander McCall, Cornelius Smith, Albert Smith, William McEver, John Pine, Henry Valentine. Due on the Blacksmith's Book, are amounts owed by William McEver, Jonas Van Dervoort, John Perry, John Bogart, John Baker, James Thew, John Ramsey, Abraham Foshee, Cornelius Smith, Albert Smith, Samuel Foshee, John R. Hicks, Mark McCrackin, Harmanes Van Zile, and Thomas Wanamaker. Also listed are demands for good[s] and chattles borrowed by or left at the premises of the following: Jacob Van Reyper (various articles, not itemized); Cornelius Smith (3 oxchains and a Crow Bar); Thomas Cornel (Hogs).²

William Folly built his house on Franklin Turnpike about 1811 and further north along the Turnpike the Crouters and Quackenbushes had homes that were built before or by the early part of the new century.

By 1830 among those living in the neighborhood that later became Allendale were the families of Albert Garrison, Tobias Smith, Aaron Ackerman, Henry Marks, William Folly, John Labagh, Jeffrey Smith, Anthony Crouter, Henry Powell, John Van Horn, John G. Ackerman, Abraham Quackenbush, John Carlough, Harmanus Smith, Joseph Christopher, Jacob A. Smith, Richard Vanderbeek, Albert Smith, John Van Houten, Aaron Courter, Lawrence Ackerman, and Barney I. Spear.

Before 1840, John Smith had a sawmill in Allendale on the public road to Paterson. This mill was probably in the vicinity of today's West Crescent Avenue (the road to Paterson) and Brookside Avenue. His house and millpond are shown on a Bergen County Road Return (laying out a public road) filed August 11, 1835. Also shown are the road to Jacob A. Smith's, the road to Browbent, the Franklin Turnpike Road, Harmen Smith's house, and the Turnpike Gate. Mentioned in this road return are two stores in the Wortendyke area: Ira Munn's store, and David Lydecker's store.

CHURCHES

Allendale residents in this era continued to be served by the Dutch Reformed churches at Paramus, Ponds (Oakland), South Schraalenburgh (Bergen-

field), North Schraalenburgh (Dumont), and Acquackanonk (Passaic). Some people from this area continued to travel to the New York City Reformed Dutch Church for baptisms and marriages, some kept their ties to the church at Hackensack, and others traveled north to New York state to West New Hempstead (Kakiat), Clarkstown, and Tappan.

After the Revolution, several other local Dutch Reformed Churches were organized and built. The Ramapo Reformed Church, ("Island Church"), at West Ramapo Avenue and Island Road, Mahwah, was organized 1785 and its frame, Federal Period style church building was erected in 1798. The Pascack Reformed Church, in Park Ridge, was built in 1814.

A congregation at Saddle River organized about 1784, and named themselves the New North Reformed Low Dutch Church at Saddle River. This congregation was bound by contract to the Paramus Church, and the two churches at first shared a pastor, the Rev. Benjamin Vanderlinda. Today's existing stone, Federal style Saddle River Reformed Church ("Old Stone Church"), at East Saddle River Road and Old Stone Church Road, in Upper Saddle River was begun in 1811 and completed in 1819. The stone building replaced an earlier wooden octagonal structure.

The Wyckoff Reformed Church was organized abt. 1806 as an outstation of the Ponds Church. Its Federal style stone building was built in 1806 and it was recognized as a separate church in 1822 by the Classis of Bergen.

The frame, Federal style Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, on East Allendale Road, in Saddle River, was built in 1820, but a Lutheran Church had existed in the New York and Hackensack area since at least 1725. Baptisms and other events are recorded as taking place in the Mahwah and Saddle River areas in the early 1700s. The cornerstone of the church was laid October 4, 1820. In February 1821 the Rev. Charles H. N. Pohlman became pastor, and the new building was dedicated October 14, 1821.³

The Methodist movement in America began when John Wesley came to America before the Revolution. Little progress was made until after the war, when Francis Asbury was active as a leader of the church in this country.

Methodists in this area began to hold camp meetings in the groves near what became Franklin Turnpike from 1785-1790. As early as 1791 there was a Methodist meeting in the Allendale-Waldwick area at which church rites were performed, and on March



The Quackenbush Homestead at 555 Franklin Turnpike in a photo c. 1935. The farmhouse was built about 1807-1810 by Abraham A. Quackenbush. It remained in the Quackenbush family for more than 130 years. The last family owners were

Willard Alling and his wife, the former Mabel Quackenbush, who lived here from about 1911 until about 1940. The central part is the oldest section of the house; the south wing probably dates from about 1840 and the north wing from about 1870.

1, 1797 an election of Trustees for the Paramus Methodist Episcopal Church was held. This church later became known as the New Prospect (Waldwick) Methodist Episcopal Church.

Ministers to the church in those early days were circuit-riding itinerant preachers who made their long and arduous rounds on horseback. Rev. Barnabas Matthias, the first Methodist preacher in Haverstraw, N.Y., was associated with Rev. John Fountain in the circuit that reached from Haverstraw to Belleville, N.J. Among those early traveling preachers who visited the church were Richard Whatcoat in 1791, and John Fountain, John Clark, and John Seward, all in 1797. The circuit for preachers in those days required six weeks for the preacher to visit each appointment once, even with holding three services on Sunday in addition to services on alternate days of the week.^{4, 5}

In 1798 Methodist class meetings were held, led by Brothers Cuddy, Springer, Dodds, Sharp, and Van Blarcom.

The first church building is thought to have been located in a hollow, near a pond, behind the Hermitage. It is not known when it was erected, but it was in use by February 24, 1817 when the church and its access road were mentioned as a boundary in a deed.

On December 18, 1819 it was decided to build "a new meeting house" on A. Ackerman's lot, near LaRoe's Tavern, on Franklin Turnpike. Many of the early members of the church are buried in the Union Cemetery near the Wyckoff-Waldwick border.

Other early ministers connected to the church include Rev. Manning Force, Rev. J. Mallinson, and Rev. George Banghart.^{4, 6, 7}

ROADS AND STAGE ROUTES

Franklin Turnpike is probably the oldest road in Allendale; it was chartered as a toll road in 1806 and said to have once been part of the Albany Post Road. The throughfare had existed here for years as a rough wood highway and before that as part of the cleared roadway through the Ramapo valley. On a map drawn in 1812, the road is labeled "New Prospect-N. Goshen Turnpike."⁸

The road was part of a stagecoach route, and originally took a slightly different course on its route through what would become Allendale. Frank Berdan described the pattern it took beginning near the present Waldwick border, where it went east of today's route, then bending back through the area where Archer Hall would later be built, meeting the current path near the barn on the Fell-Ackerman-Cable-Pfister property.⁹ Herman Rohsler recalled that it was noted in a deed for his Allendale Nursery property on Franklin Turnpike that the old barn (pos-

sibly built before 1800 and still standing) had been moved east from its original location in the early years of the 19th century. He felt that this move was necessitated by the chartering of the toll road.

In 1797 Dobbins and Trustin of Goshen, NY were given the stage coach franchise along this road from New York to Goshen.¹⁰ In the early 1800s stage coaches ran along this turnpike, through the Franklin Turnpike gate from Ramapo to New York, via Paterson.

In 1803 a stage left Hoboken every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 3 p.m. and ran through Hackensack, Goshen, and other New York stops before reaching Albany. Overnight stops were made at Hackensack, Goshen and Kingston, and the fare was \$8.¹¹

In 1812-13, Henry I. Traphagen and William Southerland were running this stage with four horses; later, in 1819-20, Garret Bampa ran the stage to Ramapo and Abraham Clearwater carried it "through the Orange Turnpike gate."¹²

Stage stops and public houses were kept just north and just south of Allendale. In what became Ramsey along Franklin Turnpike was The Demarest Inn, which had been licensed in 1756, and which was later called the Mount Prospect Inn. And, on Franklin Turnpike in what became Waldwick, stood LaRoe's Tavern (or LaRue's Tavern; later Bamber's public house, or tavern, run in 1840 by Garret Bamber).

LaRoe's Tavern, later Bamber's, was a "change horses" station on the stagecoach line running along Franklin Turnpike. To keep up speed, tired horses were quickly exchanged for fresh ones so the coach could travel on and keep to its schedule. In the spring of 1899, when the old Bamber homestead was being remodeled, carpenters tore down the store end of the building and found 73 old copper one-cent pieces, dating from 1803, and a bag containing 57 old three-cent pieces. This old homestead was torn down in the mid-1950s to make way for the building of a strip shopping center.^{13, 14}

One section of Franklin Turnpike between Waldwick and Allendale was said to have been thickly wooded early in the 19th century, and this made it an ideal hideout for crooks and thieves. This part of the road was remembered as being the scene of many highway robberies and daring holdups in the early stagecoach days.¹⁴

Early Bergen County Road Returns indicate the existence of another road in the Allendale area called "the Shunpike," apparently used by local residents to avoid paying the Turnpike toll. The matter was brought up in January 1811 at the Bergen County Court of Common Pleas held at New Barbadoes, when inhabitants and freeholders of Franklin Township petitioned the court for the vacation (or

abandonment) of a "certain road, commonly called the Shunpike." The road, in Franklin Township, was described beginning at the center of the road that crossed the turnpike at New Success opposite the house occupied by Richard A. Terhune, to the fork of the road at James Smith's at New Prospect. The road ran over the lands of Major Abraham Forshee, David T. Eckerson, Peter Haring, Thomas T. Eckerson, Stephen Lawrence, Isaac Lawrence, George Lawrence, Garret Hopper, Matthew Steward, John Ramsey, Elias Folly, Harmanus Van Zile, William Folly, Aaron Ackerman, Albert Ackerman, Garret Hopper, Jacob Hopper, Henry A. Hopper, Ryer Tebow, the minor heirs of Peter Tebow, deceased, Mr. Curtis, and Abraham Ackerman. The petition was signed by some of those land owners plus Abraham Terhune, Aaron C. Ackerman, Richard Terhune, Peter Ackerman, Andrew A. Hopper, Abraham I. Ackerman, John Ackerman, Jacob A. Hopper, Anthony Crouter, Abraham Quackenbush, and Morris Sharpsteen.¹⁵

To prevent the use of the Shunpike and other circumventing routes (including the old Paterson Road, later called Crescent Avenue), and to make sure the tolls were paid, the location of the tollgate was moved at least three times. At one of those times the gate was located at a house further north on Franklin Turnpike very near the present Ramsey border.

During the first half of the 19th century, the Allendale area was known as "the Turnpike," taking its name from this toll road running through the settlement. Charity Ackerman, who kept a diary from 1836 to 1841 referred several times to families and people living "at the Turnpike."¹⁶ Other names for the area (with as yet no distinct boundaries) were Mount Pleasant (Saddle River-Allendale area), New Prospect (Waldwick-Allendale area), Wyckoff (including some western fringe of today's Allendale), New Success (Ramsey area), and Mount Prospect (Ramsey-Allendale area).

In the early 1800s a toll house was built on the southern point of the present-day Crescent Avenue-Franklin Turnpike intersection. The actual gate was a long log stretched across the roadway, which was swung out of the way after the toll had been paid. This toll gate on the New Prospect-N. Goshen Turnpike is clearly shown on I. H. Eddy's "Map of the Country Thirty Miles Around (New York City)," dated 1812.⁸ Harman Smith and his family lived in the toll gate house by 1829 until at least 1841, and most of those who lived in the house seem to have kept some kind of a shop or store. An 1829 Bergen County road

return mentions the "two gates of Herman Smith."¹¹

Eventually, after two fires in June and September of 1933, the old toll house was condemned and razed late that same year.¹⁷ In 1949, Mrs. Fred Koster, who lived nearby on Franklin Turnpike, retold a tale she had heard from her grandmother, Mrs. Gary Storm. Mrs. Storm, who lived in the toll gate house from the late 1800's until her death about 1930, heard the story



The toll gate house on Franklin Turnpike, c. 1900, before the hill on the Turnpike was graded. The view is looking south from just north of the Crescent Avenue intersection.

from older residents. The story goes that at some time during the 19th century the house became known as "the house the elephant kicked over." The tale handed down from older residents, is that an elephant from a circus traveling along the turnpike became entangled in the toll chain attached to the building. As a result, the elephant pulled down a section of the house. Apparently the damage done was soon repaired, for the house continued in use for many years.¹⁸

Traveling animal shows were held at New Prospect (the Waldwick-Allendale area) probably at Ackerman's camp meeting grounds along the east side of Franklin Turnpike in Allendale, near the Waldwick border. Camp meetings, probably on the order of religious retreats, were held there in the warmer late summer and autumn months (usually August and September) as early as the 1830s. The site was a popular picnic and gathering place. Martha Ann Zabriskie wrote in her diary on November 1, 1833 that "a great show of animals has been at New Prospect."¹⁹

In March 1829 the road that became West Crescent Avenue through Allendale probably was widened (opened to two and one half rods wide) and straightened. In the petition of March 12, 1829 to the Bergen County Court to appoint surveyors to plot the

widening and straightening, the road was described "to commence at the Goffle road at the bridge near John Van Winkle's, then to David Lidecker's store thence on the Wycoff road to Cornelius Wortendyke's new house, from there to the house of Charles Mitchel, thence in as straight a direction as the land will admitt to the gate or near the same on the Franklin Turnpike about two and one half miles above New Prospect, there to end." Six notices of this petition were posted locally by Cornelius Wortendyke on Saturday, March 14, at Cornelius Wortendyke's, Henry Spear's Tavern, John S. Van Winkle's, one at the North Paterson Factory, one at Daniel Lidecker's store, and one at A. Wortendyke's store.

BUSINESSES

There were probably very few businesses in what became Allendale from the time of the Revolution into the 1850s. There were stores and inns just north and south of Allendale, but none are known to have existed within Allendale's limits. Allendale residents of this era devoted their time, it seems, to farming.

John A. Smith was running a sawmill near what is today the intersection of Brookside and West Crescent Avenues by June 1827, when it was mentioned in a Bergen County road return. Smith had married Abigail Van Blarcom, daughter of John Van Blarcom and Rebecca Tebow (probably the sister of Peter Tebow).

John Van Houten, living on West Allendale Avenue by about 1792, was a wheelwright in addition to farming his land.

South of Allendale, Elijah Rosencrantz was running a cotton mill in New Prospect, back of his home at the Hermitage.

ALLENDALE SCHOOL

Before 1825, it was said, there had been two different schoolhouses in the Allendale vicinity, but nothing about them has ever been found in any existing records.²⁰

In 1826 a one-story frame schoolhouse, 16 by 24 feet, was built at the intersection of Franklin Turnpike and today's Chestnut Street, near the camp meeting grounds. This was called the "little old red schoolhouse," and desks were arranged around the single room together with long, backless benches on which students sat from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon.

John G. Ackerman, John G. Ackerson, and Albert A. Garrison served as the first Board of Trustees. They employed Isaac Demarest as their earliest teacher, and later, by 1835, Garret A. L. Zabriskie. Other, later teachers in this school included Henry H.

Vanderbeck, James Alfred Ackerman, John Binder, and Mary Geroe.^{19, 21, 22}

James Alfred Ackerman, commonly known as Alfred Ackerman, first attended this school and then, beginning about 1842, taught periodically at the school for many years. The son of Aaron Cuyper Ackerman and his wife Hester Sharp, James Alfred Ackerman was born September 10, 1827 and died January 29, 1907. He also taught school at what became Oradell about 1888.²³

RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

For many decades after the Revolution, Evacuation Day was celebrated, commemorating the evacuation of the British from New York City in November 1783. The anniversary was usually celebrated with some sort of parade and a military display or drill. Charity Ackerman wrote in her diary on November 25, 1839, "Today is Evacuation Day." Independence Day was also celebrated, and on July 4, 1836, she wrote "This is the sixtieth year of American Independence, and I am afraid some of them will get a wet jacket, as it is a rather rainy day."

Vendues (auctions, usually held at the homes of a deceased resident, to settle estates) were another occasion for neighbors to meet and socialize and several local ones are mentioned in both Charity Ackerman's and Martha Ann Zabriskie's diaries. Included are vendues at the homes of John Humphrey (for the belongings of David S. Ackerman, in April 1830), Peter Debaun (September 1835), Jeremiah Vanderbeek (January 1837), and Herman Lutkins (April 1837). Another vendue was held at the home of Martha Ackerman Zabriskie (Martha Ann's grandmother, in Paramus) November 1833, and this one was apparently a private vendue "among the children").

Other local events and attractions included such occasions as the exhibition of Siamese twins at Hackensack (Charity Ackerman wrote in December 1837, "These young men are a great curiosity").

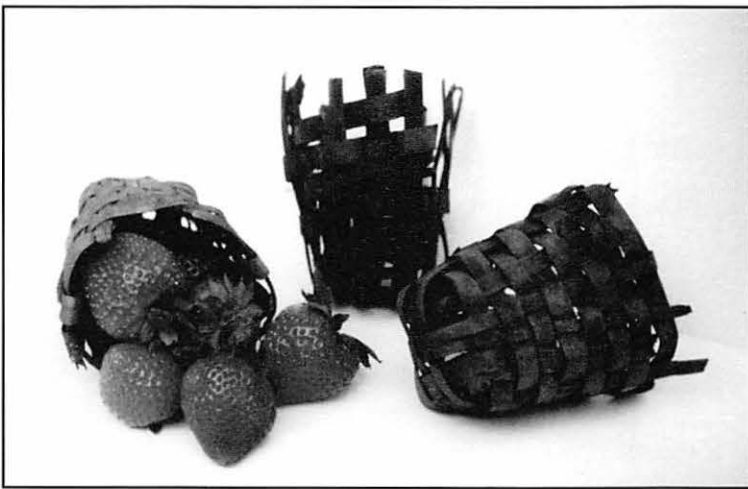
FARMS AND FARMING

Before the building of the railroad, Allendale and its surrounding settlements were almost exclusively comprised of farmland. The countryside was made up of woodland, pastures, orchards, and cultivated farmland. The average farmer devoted from one to five acres strictly to the raising of strawberries, for which Allendale and her immediate neighbors became famous. Produce was taken to the Washington Island Market in Paterson, the Old Newark Market, or, in New York, to the Gansevoort Market at the foot of 14th Street, or Dey Street

Commission Market. As early as 1819, according to the American Universal Geography, the northern part of Bergen County was known for its cattle and dairy products as well as the cultivation of strawberries. Farmers transported their produce by wagon to nearby markets and once there, lined their wagons up displaying to retail merchants and hotel buyers whatever produce they had brought.

The raising of fruit was so important to this area that in 1840 William A. Packer of Saddle River erected a saw mill and installed machinery in a factory for the making of baskets in which to pack fruits and berries. Basket-making in those early days was also a winter-time occupation of the farmers and their families.

The baskets themselves were very important to the farmers, and were almost always returned to the farm to be reused. Many farmers, unable to spare the time to go to market with their produce, depended



While renovating the house at 555 Franklin Turnpike in the early 1970s, Eve and Richard Ardia found the above strawberry baskets in the parlor ceiling. They are shown with modern strawberries as a scale of their size. Not too many berries fit in those tiny baskets!

upon commission dealers, who for a percentage of the market price, took the trip to the market in place of the farmers. They usually handled farm produce for several farmers at a time. Sometimes the commission agent failed to return the baskets to the farmer, and sometimes the farmers went to court to regain the value of the baskets from the negligent commission agent. One such case occurred in Ramsey in December 1857, when farmer P. P. Mowerson brought suit against Jacob H. Bamper, his commission agent. According to an area newspaper, "It appears Bamper carried Mowerson's strawberries to market, agreeing to return the baskets, 90 out of the 100 as a part are always lost. Bamper failed to

perform according to contract, and the most of Mowerson's baskets are lost." The trial was held at Valentine's Hotel in Ramsey, and H.G. Ryerson was the counsel for Mowerson.²⁴

There were other occasions for litigation, including altercations over land bounds. In September 1836, a dispute between John G. Ackerman and Henry Powell over a line fence was brought to suit, and the trial was decided in favor of John Ackerman.¹⁶

Orchard Street in Allendale provides by its very name evidence of the past; there really was an orchard where that street now runs. Trees bearing apples, pears, cherries, and peaches were planted by early farmers here and were important additions to their other crops.

By about 1840, the tiny community numbered among its inhabitants the families of Anthony Crouter, Aaron Ackerman, Henry Powell, John G. Ackerman, Lewis Van Blarcom, John R. Vanderbeek, and Abram A. Quackenbush. Others, listed in the 1830 Federal Census for Franklin Township, living in the present Allendale area or nearby included Barney I. Spear, William Folly, John Lauback, Albert Garrison, Jeffrey Smith, Jacob Smith, Albert Smith, Richard Vanderbeek, Albert A. L. Zabriskie, John Christopher, and Cornelius Van Horn.²⁵

A guide to cities, townships, villages, and settlements within 30 miles of New York City, published in 1839, described the countryside of Franklin Township (which then included Allendale) as generally well-cultivated and productive. Within Franklin Township, it stated, on the Ramapo River on the west boundary and the Saddle River on the east, were 13 cotton factories, 18 grist mills, 25 saw mills, 3 paper mills, 2 fulling mills, 22 tan vats, and 4 distilleries. The population of Franklin Township was given as about 4,000 inhabitants. Some of

the main settlements within Franklin Township were Peramus (Paramus), New Success (later Ramsey), and New Prospect (later Waldwick). The most direct route to Franklin Township from New York was by the Paterson and Hudson Railroad to Paterson and then across the Passaic River through the town of Manchester to Franklin.²⁶

Bergen County's geographic area during these times was considerably larger than it is today. In 1837, Passaic County was formed from the western part of Bergen County, and in 1840 Hudson County was formed from the southern part of Bergen County.