

Alloway History Signs

Lambert Street School

Construction of the building began in 1856 and it served as a school from 1857-1925. The upper floor housed the high school, accessible through the door on the front right side of the building and led to the stairway to the second floor. Plaques presented by some of the senior graduating classes are displayed in the Alloway History Museum in Room 216 of the Municipal Building. After 1912, high school students from Alloway attended Woodstown or Salem High School. The lower floor was an open room with three sliding doors that could separate it into two rooms. The school was heated by a coal stove in the middle of the side wall closest to town on the lower floor. Coal was delivered into a shed on the right side of the building that is no longer there. Coat racks lined the street side of the 1st floor rooms. Two outhouses, one for boys and one for girls, stood in the back corners of the property. The schoolhouse bell, originally in the belfry that is no longer on the house, is also on display in the Alloway History Museum.

From *Alloway Remembers*, this is the wording of the original bid for the contract:

Allowaystown, June 7, 1856

To Mr. David Evans, Edwin Stretch, and Joseph S. Jacobs, Trustees of the Allowaystown Public School, No. #8

We propose to enter into a contract with you to build a new brick school house in said village, the said house to be built of brick two stories high of 9 feet each high. Said building to be 24 feet, the lower story joice (sic) to be 3 by 10, of white oak, with a large girder the whole length to be of white oak. The 2nd story joice (sic) to be hemlock 3 by 7 with girder on each door. The lumber to be black oak or hemlock. Good shingle roof. The floors to be Caroline pine 1 ¼ inch thick. Said building to have eighteen windows in the same and the sash to be hung on weights. Said building to have fice (sic) doors and closets. The same to be done in a workman-like manner and good manners and to be finished by the middle of October next.

We propose to build the same for the sum of twelve hundred and ninety-nine dollars and fifty cents.

Signed: William House and Richard G. Hadley

Ernest Dorrell purchased the building when a new school (now the Municipal Building/Senior Citizens' Complex) was built on Greenwich Street in 1925. Initially, Ernest operated a lampshade business on the first floor and lived on the second floor. In 1927, he married Olive Evans and as the family grew, a rabbit hutch was moved from another property in town and Ernest turned it into a workshop. The family expanded into the bottom floor of the schoolhouse with eventually eight boys being born from 1927–1949. Ernest, who had studied at the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art prior to World War I, began to decorate furniture and became an antique dealer. He also received recognition for making and painting lampshades, partnering with Martin Bach of Durand Glass, who made the lamp bases. The school building remains in the Dorrell family. Both Ernest and Olive had attended school in the building.

For more information about Alloway history, visit the Alloway History Museum in Room 216 of the Alloway Municipal Building/Senior Citizens Complex. This project was assisted by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the department of State, the Salem County Board of County Commissioners, and the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.



Lambert Street School



Alloway High School students at Lambert Street School

Photos from the Robert Dorrell collection of photographs by Abraham and Willard Darlington at the Salem County Historical Society.



Class plaques from Alloway High School on display in the Alloway History Museum

Alloway Municipal/Senior Citizen's Complex

Dedicated in 1925, this building was the Alloway Township School, replacing the Lambert Street School and other smaller schools throughout the Township. When it became too small to hold all of the students, a new school, the M. Elizabeth Remster School was built in 1959. For many years, classes continued to be held in both buildings and all students walked to this school for lunch. Pursuant to a Feasibility Study conducted on the building in the early 1980s "age has created some undesirable conditions and construction code requirements have significantly changed since the building was constructed." (4 Oct 1984 letter to Superintendent Jean Walsh from Radey & Fuller Associates, Architects & Engineers). This study determined that the building no longer met the code requirements for a school and additional rooms were added to the Remster School rendering this building obsolete. The building sat empty for a few years while the Township deliberated on its fate.

In 1992, the building was saved from demolition by concerned residents voting to save this beautiful building and preventing it from being replaced with trailers for township offices. A video, "A WALK ALONG GREENWICH STREET – ALLOWAY, NJ 1992" was produced to assist Alloway Township in obtaining a grant from the State of New Jersey for the restoration of the school building Phase 1 of the restoration included exterior improvements, new windows, and complete renovation of the first floor. In the video, resident Margaret M. Matthews walks along Greenwich Street with longtime resident and local historian Bob Dorrell. Residents Ed Masker and Greg Lewis of Studio B Video Productions produced, directed, and edited the video that was included with the successful grant application. Phase 2 of the work involved renovation of the second floor including the auditorium. The renovation of the building enabled centralization of the municipal offices and meeting places for the senior citizens and other community groups. The Veterans Walkway was added in front of the building in 2009.

The original members of the Old School Steering Committee, established February 13, 1992 were:

Walter C. Williams, Jr. Chairman
Justin M. Jackson, Co-Chairman
Louisa Talley, Secretary
Russell Drummond, Township Committee Liaison
Wilhemina Bradshaw
David E. Hltchner, Sr.
Edward C. Jamison
Patrick Jamison
Julia Uhland

The crest from the top of the school building has recently been returned to the front of the property.

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ALLOWAY TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SCHOOL

ERECTED 1925

BOARD OF EDUCATION

B. C. DRUMMOND PRESIDENT

WM. H. SHOUGH VICE PRES.

JOHN R. POWELL DIST. CLERK

JOHN W. DUNHAM

GEO. HITCHNER

ALBERT HITCHNER

CLIFFORD DARE

SAM'L J. BELL

CHAS. H. POWELL

MISS M. E. REMSTER PRINCIPAL

HENRY C. DIXON COUNTY SUPT.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

WM. H. SHOUGH

JOHN R. POWELL

WALTER L. CUSTER

JOHN M. YARDLEY

ARCHITECT

CONTRACTOR

Original Plaque in School



Tuesday, January 5, 1926 — 7.30 o'clock P. M.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

B. C. DRUMMOND, *President*

W. H. SHOUGH, *Vice President*

JOHN R. POWELL, *Secretary*

J. W. DUNHAM

GEORGE HITCHNER

ALBERT H. HITCHNER

CLIFFORD DARE

SAMUEL J. BELL

CHARLES H. POWELL

DEDICATION

OF

Alloway Township School

Program



Selection, Holmes Baker Orchestra of Wildwood Crest Pier,

HOLMES BAKER, Director

Invocation

REV. H. G. MOHL

Address of Welcome

REV. B. W. LUCKENBILL

Chorus, "*Morning Bells*," "*Toast*"

Upper Grades

*"The Elementary School and Its Significance from the
Viewpoint of the State Normal School"*

DR. J. J. SAVITZ

Principal of Glassboro State Normal School

Solo

JEANNETTE M. BAKER

"From the Viewpoint of the County"

SUPT. H. C. DIXON

Selection

Orchestra

Presentation of Keys to President of Board of Education

WALTER L. CUSTER, Architect

Acceptance by Board of Education

B. C. DRUMMOND, President

Selection

Orchestra

Presentation of Gifts

Address

DR. E. F. HANN, Bridgeton

Selection "*Star Spangled Banner*"

Orchestra

Benediction

REV. EDGAR G. BRAME, Friesburg, N. J.

Selection

Orchestra

Alloway Public “Free” Cemetery

The history of this cemetery is not well documented. An article appeared in the January 6, 1941 Standard and Jerseyman that indicated that Mrs. Lydia Fox Kelty had paper records in her possession which showed that her father, Robert Fox, was a direct descendant of James McGill, who donated one acre of his farm to Alloway Township, in which residents of the township were to be buried free of charge. Research of family records reveal that Robert Fox was the son of Charles H. Fox (1845-1929) and Lydia Megill (1846-1897). Lydia Megill was the daughter of John Megill (1805-1883) and Elizabeth Margaret Shaw (1810-1881). John Megill was the son of James Megill (1780-1842) and Margaret Mower (1788-1824).

Per the newspaper article, James McGill was the great-grandson of Rev. James MacGill who came to America from Scotland in 1725. Several of Rev. MacGill’s grandsons settled in Salem, and one, Patrick MacGill, a blacksmith, settled in Allowaystown. James McGill, who gave the ground, was Patrick’s son. James McGill, his family and a number of soldiers of the American Revolution are buried in this old cemetery. Research of the June 1793 tax records confirm that Patrick McGill lived in Alloway.

According to the article, this gift was made by James McGill in the year 1810-11, when he learned that the owners of the cemeteries in this vicinity refused to allow soldiers of the American Revolution to be buried without buying a lot. This so incensed Mr. McGill, whose father and uncle had served in the Revolution, that he gave the aforementioned ground to the citizens of Alloway Township. Unfortunately, the deed documenting this gift could not be found in the Salem County archives. Burial records are incomplete and many of the early gravestones are no longer legible, and documentation has not been found to identify what Revolutionary War soldiers are buried here.

Some of the earliest known burials include:

Elizabeth Bee 1768-1832

James Bell 1756-1830

Rebecca Sweeten Bell 1767-1806

Jesse Earley 1786-1867

Peter H. Emel 1778-1823

Esther Emmel 1786-1847

Martha McCormack 1777-1806

John Mowers 1760-1822

Lydia Johnson Mowers 1765-1807

Anna Simms 1798-1855

Flags are placed on the graves of Veterans each year on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Burials are still taking place in the cemetery today. The Township is responsible for the upkeep of the cemetery.

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