

# ALLENFORD 2010 *Homecoming*

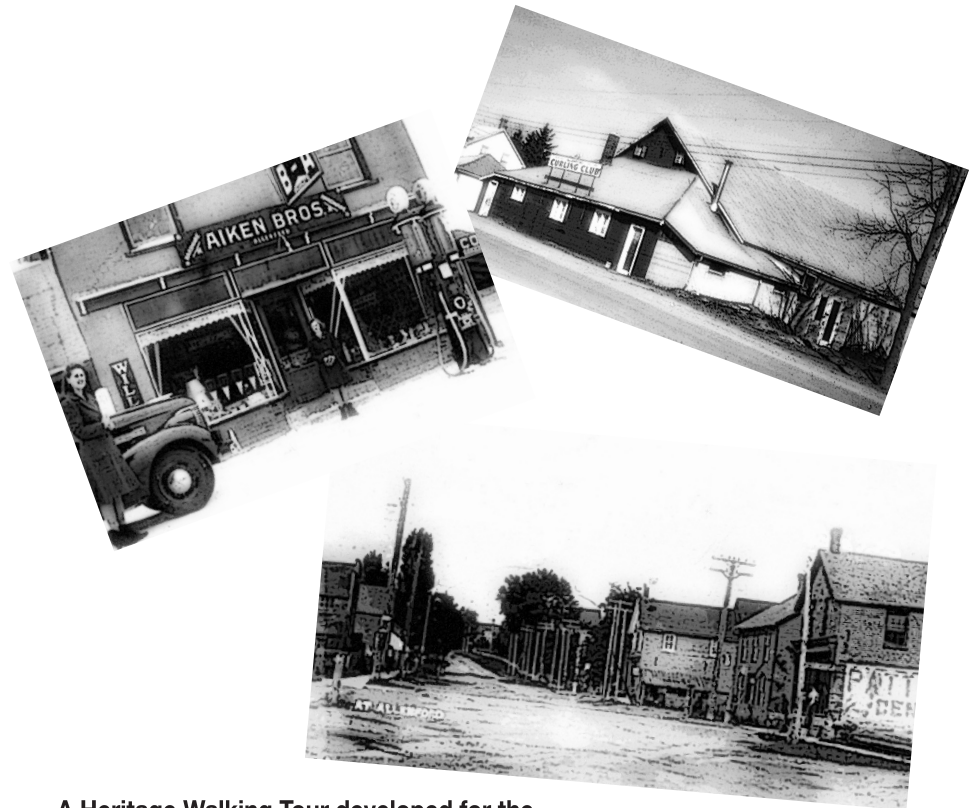
## *Steps Back In Time Through Allenford*



*Heritage Walking Tour developed with assistance from:*

Canadian Heritage  
Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage Funding

Community Historical Anniversaries Programming  
awarded to *"Allenford Curling Club 100th  
Anniversary Celebration"*  
and printed by The Town of South Bruce Peninsula



**A Heritage Walking Tour developed for the  
ALLENFORD 2010 Homecoming celebrating 100 years for  
Aiken Bros. Hardware and the Allenford Curling Club**

*Allenford* was traditionally referred to as “Driftwood Crossing”, although a plaque displayed at the Pow-Wow Park referred to it as “Floodwood Crossing”, perhaps due to translation from Ojibwa. The name for the village today is a combination of the name of the first settler, James Allen, and “ford” because this was the place where the river was most easily forded.

James Allen was born in the North of Ireland on June 30, 1825 and came to Canada in 1832 with his parents, who settled in Peterborough County. Moving first to Holland Township in Grey County where he served as reeve for a year or so, James settled in Amabel Township on Lots 9 and 10 of Concession A with his wife, Elizabeth and young son in April 1857.

Known as Squire Allen, he was a member of the first Municipal Council of Amabel and remained very involved in municipal government, holding the highest township position for 16 years. In 1885, Mr Allen was appointed Indian Agent at Chippawa Hill, an office he held until his death on April 4, 1895. Headstones in the pioneer cemetery beside Allenford United Church indicate the final resting place for Mr. Allen and some of his family members. Mr. Allen shared with many early settlers a commitment to growth, God and betterment.

*On the East Side:*

**14 Elizabeth Street  
Presbyterian Manse**

Originally part of James Allen’s farm, this lot was first sold to Mortimer Jackson. In 1888, the lot was sold to Allenford Presbyterian Church. The first manse had burned down in 1908 and was replaced with this brick house. In 1939, ministers lived in Tara and the house was made into rental apartments. It is now a single family home.

*At the End of the Street:*

**16 Elizabeth Street  
Gowan/Tolton House**

First the home of John Gowan and his wife, this home was sold to Emerson and Stella Tolton in 1916. Emerson retired from the C.N.R., then went into barn framing; later, he manufactured concrete well-tiles in his backyard. The Tolton family lived here for 70 years.

*On the Northwest Corner at Alice Street:*

**2 Alice Street  
Newman/Cox House**

This house was built by George Sharp and sold to Joseph Young in 1897. Other owners included Francis McDougald, and John Loney who taught school 1887-1906). In 1915, it was purchased by Samuel W. Newman, who was a wood-turner, making axe handles, whipple trees, neck yokes, etc. Lawrence and Florence Cox bought the house in 1953.

*Continuing along Alice Street:*

**4 Alice Street  
Baker/McCulloch House**

Records show that a house was built here by 1884. Early owners were Elizabeth and Hiram Smith, Neil McDougald, George Montgomery, Sarah Baker. In 1920 Albert Trobridge sold the house to Elizabeth Baker who lived here until 1944. Some other owners were Ross Baker, Ernest McCulloch and Sharon Beattie. Ernest McCulloch had a large chicken barn behind the house. The back portion of the lot was sold to the Curling Club.

*On the North Side of Highway 21:*  
**7839 & 7841 Highway 21  
Diebel Saw Mill & House**

Built by Louis Osmus, this sawmill was sold to Levi Woelfe in 1910. In 1916, it became the Diebel Mill and was operated by Hector Diebel for about 30 years. This steam-operated mill was later converted to gasoline. There was also a cider mill here. Gerald Morrison bought the mill in 1954, dismantled it and built a service station and snack bar. Later, an autobody shop and Cecil Posthumus' butcher shop were located here.

*On the North Side, West of the Rail Trail:*  
**Site of the First School**

A one-room log schoolhouse was built in 1865 on land donated by James Allen. It was the third school in Amabel Township. Even with an addition, a larger school was needed by 1876.

*On the North Side of the Highway, across from the Ball Park:*

**Site of James Allen's House**



This busy home was often the centre for many community activities including early services for Allenford Methodist Church. Today, a few tired trees and some foundation rubble linger beside the tiny stream...the only evidence remaining that the James Allen house stood here.

*Return along Highway 21 to the corner of Elizabeth Street:*

*On the East Side:*  
**8 Elizabeth Street  
Albert Aiken House**



Built about 1895, Frank McDougald sold this house to John Loney in 1897. After several owners, it was owned by the Albert Aiken family (co-owner of Aiken Bros.) from 1917 until 1949 when it was purchased by William & Susannah Hanbidge. In 1970, Arthur Barclay & his wife May bought the home. For a period before 1930, there was a three-storey barn located to the North side of this lot.

**Point of Interest:** In 1878, properties for the Baker House and Albert Aiken House were severed from the Taylor-Wain House property by Dr. Archibald Bryant Taylor.

*On the West Side:*  
**7 Elizabeth Street (Side Lot of 5  
Elizabeth) Town Hall That Never Was**

In 1930, owner Emma Aiken sold this part of her lot to the Allenford Women's Institute as a site for a community hall. The basement was dug and foundation constructed. With The Great Depression, work stopped. Walls were later removed.

*Starting at:*  
**10 Alice Street  
Allenford Curling Club**

Established in 1910, the Official Opening for the Club's present facility was held on June 11, 1977. The Club offers a range of curling opportunities and is a community meeting place. For a number of years, the Village Library operated in a room to the East.

**9 Alice Street  
Cunningham House**

This was the home of William Cunningham, owner of the first store in Allenford. Located behind the store, some owners lived here while others lived above the store.

**14 Alice Street  
Jack Aiken House**

Built about 1878, Jack Aiken and his wife, Annie (Hedde) were among the succession of owners of this house. Annie was a dressmaker, training three to four apprentices at a time. Jack was an avid curler. Property was sold from this lot to the Curling Club for additional parking space.

**15 Alice Street  
Temple House**

This house was built shortly after Susan Temple purchased the property in 1877. Early owners included David Marshall, Martha Craig, Ida Nelson and William Trimble.

**18 Alice Street  
Tolten House**

Built by John Dean, this house originally stood near the road in front of the barn on Allenford Road. In 1950, Frank & Edna Tolton bought it from Norman Evans and moved it to this site.

**22 Alice Street  
Strang-Newman House**

Land was purchased in 1876 by Rebecca Zimmerman. The house was no doubt built before she sold the property to William Strang in 1902. In 1947, T.K. Newman bought the property and rented it to Vincent Elliott, principal of the Continuation School.

**West of Allenford Road, property along Alice Street was subdivided in 1887, but many lots remained vacant until the mid 1900's. A couple of heritage buildings are:**

**26 Alice Street  
Spence/McDougall House**

Owned by Flora Spence, records indicate that the log structure was on it when she sold to Charles McDougald in 1924. Others owners included George Walker, Gerald Brown, then Alvin and Marion Sherriff.

*Sharing this Lot:*

**Thomas K. Newman House**

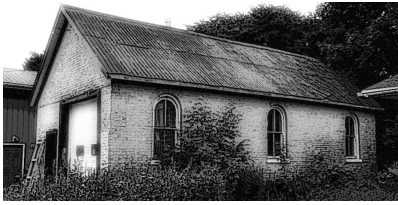
Records have not confirmed whether this house sat to the North or West of the corner house. Allenford's first library was in the home of Mrs. Francis K. Newman, the librarian. Tom was a mail carrier and an honorary member of the Curling Club.

**32 Alice Street**

Owned by Sarah Dempster, this property was sold to Phillip Munroe in 1887. Records show that a house had been built when he sold to William Lind. Owners over the years have included James Caswell, Lowrey Davidson, William W. Miller, William E. (Earl) Miller, and Don and Alice Powell.



**27 Alice Street  
Orange Lodge**



The Lodge was formed in 1867, with this Hall opening in 1889. From 1979 through 1993, the Allenford Lions' Club met in this Hall. Lion Ross (Aiken) was Guiding Lion when Lions formed in Sauble Beach.

**25 Alice Street  
Robert Walker House**

From 1873 to 1952, part, if not all, of the property along the West side of Centre Street was owned by the owners of the Hotel at the corner of River and Centre Street. This house was built in the early 1920's, when part of the lot was purchased by George Walker and his son Robert. Later, it was owned by Wes and Gertrude Aiken.

**6 Allenford Road  
Adam Aiken House**



This lot was purchased by Robert H. Murray in 1883 with the house being built about 1885. This property remained in the Murray name until his death in 1915. The property was sold to Mary Aiken (Mrs. Adam), and then owned by Harvey Aiken. It continues to be an Aiken home.

**5 Allenford Road**

This residence was once connected to the Askin Hotel.

*Along the North Side of the Highway:*  
**7729 Highway 21  
Allenford/Askin Hotel & Livery**



This is the site of Allenford's first hotel. Built by Alex Dempster in 1868, it was named the Allenford Hotel. In 1874, it was sold to Archibald Johnston and was known as The Royal Exchange Hotel. A succession of owners offered overnight accommodation and livery service. In the early 20's, the Askins operated this popular hotel. Eventually the hotel was divided into two buildings: a residence and an apartment building which burned in 2008.

**7725 Highway 21  
Cox Bros./Filsinger Garage**

Records indicate that this property was part of the livery for the neighbouring hotel. The ownership separated when the Cox Brothers (Lawrence and Norval) bought it in 1951 and established a Garage. It has operated as Rathwell's, Filsinger's and now Allenford Auto.

*On the South Side of the Highway:*

**7762 Highway 21  
Adam Beattie/"Curly" Aiken House**

In 1876, Robert McConnell sold a 2-acre property to David Beattie. It is believed that a house was built in 1881. This property remained in the Beattie family until 1944, when it was sold to David E. Aiken, commonly known as Ernest or "Curly" Aiken.

*On the North Side of the Highway:*

**7769 Highway 21  
Methodist Church Pioneer Cemetery**

Headstones include those of James Allen and some of his family members. Legible inscriptions show that burials were mostly in the years between 1870 and the early 1900s.

*On the South Side of the Highway:*

**7768 Highway 21  
Allenford School**



In 1879, one acre of land was purchased from David Beattie and a two-storey brick school was built. In 1929, the Continuation School was opened. The Public School was on the main floor with the Continuation School upstairs. In 1938, more land was purchased to the West to provide a larger playground. In 1947, cloak and washrooms were added. After 103 years, Allenford School closed its doors. The Continuation school closed in 1963 and the Public School students were withdrawn by 1968. The building has been re-purposed as Allenford Apartments.

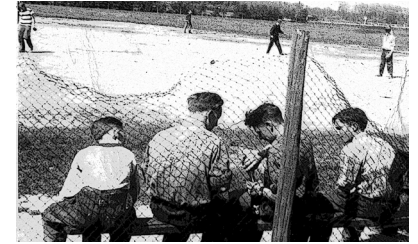
*On the North Side of the Highway:*

**7771 Highway 21  
Richard Evan's Farm**

This farm has been in the Evans family since 1894, when Richard Evans bought this part of James Allen's farm. The farm was then divided between two sons with George Ephriam becoming the owner of the part with the house. It was then owned by his son, Norman Richard, and now his son, Richard, owns the farm.

*Continue along the North Side of the Highway, looking to the South:*

**7788 Highway 21  
Allenford Ball Park**



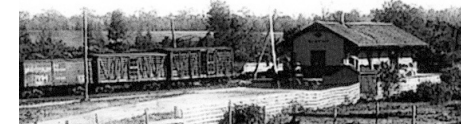
The ball diamond and park have long been a hub of activity for the Village. The property was purchased from Russell Beattie in 1925 by Allenford Athletic Association.

*Further East on the South Side, Overlooking the Rail Trail:*

**McCullough/Wright House**

This was the home of Issac McCullough, a cattle drover. It sat overlooking the...

**Grand Trunk Railway Station, Freight Shed and Stock Yard**



In 1882, the first train went through Allenford. Passenger service from Allenford station was discontinued in 1959. Freight service continued until the early 1970's.



*On the South Side of the Highway:*

**7754 Highway 21  
First Methodist Manse**

Originally owned by Robert Young, this property was then owned by James Dempster. This first parsonage was built in 1880. After the second manse was built, the first was sold to William Aiken in 1917 and then purchased by Carmen and Jean Rourke in 1948.

**7756 Highway 21  
Second Methodist Manse**

Property for the second manse was purchased from Harriett French in 1883 by trustees of Allenford Congregation of the Methodist Church of Canada. The manse was built in 1893 by George Baker. By the late 1980's, it was no longer needed as a manse.

*On the North Side of the Highway:*

**4 Elizabeth Street  
Baker House**

Built about 1893 by stonemason and bricklayer, George Baker. Records show that the telephone office and the post office were once located here.

*On the South Side of the Highway:*

**7758 Highway 21  
John Montgomery House**

This house was purchased in 1949 by Allenford Rural Telephone Company as a home for the operator and the switchboard, etc. The company began in 1909 with telephones installed in Allenford in 1911. The McKnights operated the system until it was taken over by Bell in 1970.

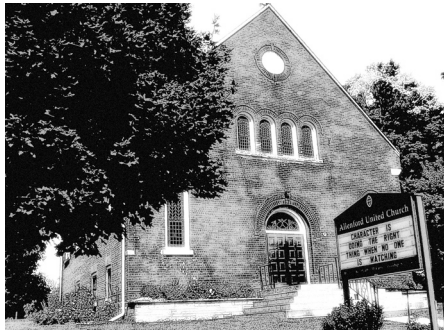
*On the North Side of the Highway:*

**7757 Highway 21  
Taylor/Wain House  
"The Doctor's House"**



Built in 1881, this home was owned by a succession of Doctors. Purchased in 1917 by George C. Wain, Clerk of Amabel Township for 33 years, the home remained in the Wain family for 71 years. Doctors have not lived here since 1917. It is still known within the community as "The Doctor's House".

**7763 Highway 21  
Allenford Methodist/United Church  
Church Shed**



This is the site of the first Methodist church, a log structure, which was built on land donated by James Allen in 1873. The present brick church was built in 1900. A shed, behind the church until 1950, was also used by farmers when they were in town.

**7719 Highway 21  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
Church Shed**



Built in 1874, the bricks were made next door, on the Thomas McLean property. The pulpit was made by Thomas McLean's furniture building factory. The church closed and was sold in 2009.

**7711 Highway 21  
Thomas McLean House &  
Furniture Factory**

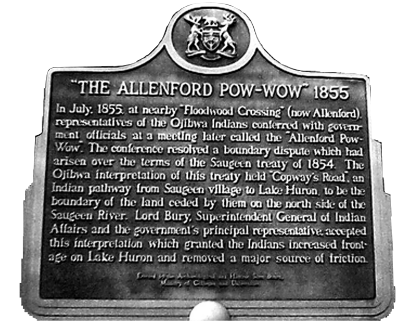
Around 1886, Thomas McLean manufactured furniture, self-rocking cradles, and was a dealer in sewing machines, sashes, doors and blinds, and was also an undertaker. There was also a shingle factory located here. Some lots directly behind on Alice Street were also owned by the owners of this house. Later, this house was owned by Rathwells, Stanley and Glen McCulloch, and Norman Middleton families.

*Cross the Highway to:*

**The Sauble River**

A source of food and water for the early settlers, it also provided transportation and power. Saw mills, grist and flour mills were built along its banks. In the summer, it provides recreation and entertainment. In the Spring, fast melting snow combine with rain almost always means a flood.

**Pow-Wow Park**



Pause here to read the plaque, placed here by the Bruce County Historical Society in 1969 which commemorates the Allenford Pow-Wow of 1855.

**At the Eastern End of Pow-Wow Park  
Library Trailer Site**

In 1974, a trailer was purchased by the Townships of Amabel and Arran and placed here to be used as a library. A larger trailer was required by 1977.

*Along the South Side of the Highway:*

**7726 Highway 21  
Blacksmith/Carpentry Shop**

In 1914, Robert Newman established his Blacksmith Shop and then sold tires. In 1922, the Door and Window Shop was operated by Howard Newman and Earl Miller. Many local buildings sport their handiwork. Later, Robert Pringle sold building supplies and Cruickshank's had a nursery here. A monument store is now located here.

**7728 Highway 21**  
**T.D Crawford's General Store/Earl**  
**McCurdy's Barber Shop**



T.D. Crawford began his business here and then sold to Earl McCurdy. Earl McCurdy's Barber Shop moved here from the Askin Hotel. The Barber Shop had pool tables and goods such as tobacco, magazines and newspapers. When Earl McCurdy retired in 1971, he sold to Robert Hinds. Later, on this site, the Jones operated Mountain View Ceramics and the Pew family had a small general store and games room.

**7730 & 7732 Highway 21**  
**Baker/McLennan/Orser Store**

Until 1909, this property was owned by the owners of the mill next door. When George Baker purchased this property, he had a store with adjoining Post Office. For a time, there was a dental office upstairs. The store often housed additional services. Owners included: Vic Pattison, Lionel Rathwell (library), Russell McGregor (library), William Rourke, Ken and Ida McLennan (community freezers), Vi and Clare Orser, Henry and Judy Kelly (Post Office) and Bruce and Hazel MacDonald (Allenford Groceries). This storefront later became the Sharon Antique Shop which was destroyed by fire in 2007.

**7734 Highway 21**  
**Strang/McCullough Hotel/Mill**



Built in 1875, this is thought to be Allenford's second hotel but its early name has not been confirmed. In 1900, Daniel Strang bought the mill and residence. Albert Jackson and John Temple bought the mill in 1920. The partnership dissolved in 1923; Albert continued until 1930. In 1930, James McCullough bought the mill and the hotel became a residence. The house was torn down in the early 1970's. Later Eldon McMillian's car lot, Cruickshank's nursery and then a convenience store were located on this site.

*To the South from the Bridge:*

**There were a number of Commercial Businesses.**

**The Allenford Mills...  
 Flour, Grist and Saw.**

The first owner, Robert Young, a miller by trade, purchased the land in 1868. The saw mill was built first to supply lumber for building the flour and grist mill (completed in 1869). In 1878, the 14 ½ acre mill site was sold to by John McDougall. When purchased by Jackson and Temple, the saw mill was partially demolished in 1920. When James McCullough owned the mill, it was powered by a gas engine. The mill burned and was rebuilt in 1948. The grist mill closed after 100 years of continuous operation.

**7743 Highway 21**  
**Rathwell & Wain Garage**

After the garage, it was also MacDonald & Stokeley's Lumber Yard, and Neil Nickason's Mechanical Shop. After the building burned down, it was replaced by Robinson's Furniture Store and later became a rental warehouse.

**7745 Highway 21**  
**Cunningham's/Plant's Store**



In 1874, William Cunningham built this store on property purchased from James Allen. The following year, he sold to Samuel Cunningham who operated the store until his death in 1892. The store had a succession of owners including John Proctor, Alfred A. Evans, Robert P. Haskett, William J. Webster, Walter J. Forsythe and Thomas D. Crawford until it was sold to Harvey Plant in 1945. Harvey and his wife, Dorothy, operated the business for 27 years, closing the store in 1982. Storekeepers often lived above the store.

**Point of Interest:** In 1945, there were eight General Stores within the 25 miles between Owen Sound and Southampton and by 1982, there were none.

*East of Aiken's properties on the South Side of Highway 21 are in the former Arran Township:*

Joseph Clarke, a tinsmith, was located across the road from Cunninghams's store in 1883.

**7744 Highway 21**  
**Morrow/Robinson House**

This house was built in the 1860's and was once Alvin Morrow's home. William Evans had a drug store here. Records indicated that part of this house was turned. It is possible that two houses have been connected.

**4 Anne Mill Street**  
**Hewitson/Wain House**

Early residents of this property include Dr. Archibald Bryant Taylor, Guy Hewitson, the harness maker, and Dr. Stover, a veterinarian followed later by the Wains.

*Anne Mill Street branches off of Highway 21:* Over the years, residents of this street have included: Jesse and Mary McIntosh, Edna Miller, Ernie & Nita McCullough in the former Newman House, Hugh Dornan, and Jack and Joy Hanbidge in the Kirkland House. One resident has lived on this street for her entire life.

*On the North Side of the Highway:*

**3 Elizabeth Street**  
**George Smith House**

This was the home of George and Velvia Smith and their eight children. George was located within easy walking distance of his blacksmith shop.



On the East Corner of Thomas Street and Highway 21:  
**7740 Highway 21**  
**Aiken Bros. Home Hardware & Guy Hewitson's Harness Shop**



This property was sold by Robert Young to Hugh McDougald, a merchant in 1869. It is thought that this building was once an inn. In 1899, Richard Morran bought the property and operated as a hardware. John Rathwell purchased the business in 1908 and in 1910 Aiken Bros Hardware began under the partnership of Moffat and Albert Aiken. Younger brother, Harvey joined in 1919. Guy Hewitson took over the harness making and leather work for the village in 1923, when Moffat left the partnership. When Albert died, Harvey carried on and was joined in 1945 by his nephew, Ross, son of Wesley Aiken. When Harvey retired in 1961, Ross took over the business and the next year, he joined the Home Hardware chain. In 2010, Ross is celebrating his 65th year in this hardware business. The original Aiken Bros. sign hangs here now.

**Points of Interest:** The Boundary between the former Amabel Township and the former Arran Township angles through Aiken Bros. Hardware and the next three properties to the West.

Crossing to North Side of the Highway:  
**Between 7735 & 7737 Highway 21**  
**George Smith's Blacksmith Shop**



The two-storey shop built in the 1860's by John Sharp. George Smith bought the business in 1926 and operated it for 37 years. His shop was heated by a homemade oil stove; the power for the planer and saws in the shop came from a 1929 car engine.

**7739 Highway 21**  
**Wiley/Gowan Store**

In 1896, Thomas Wiggins, a wagon/carriage maker, bought this property from James Allen. Other owners included James Halliday and Robert Dezell. John S. Wiley owned the store from 1911-1936. For a time, there was a barbershop in a small room behind the store. In 1936, George Gowan bought the store which burned down a year later.

**7741 Highway 21**  
**Morrison/Wiley House**

Until recently, this property had a two-part house. In the early years, Willie Morrison lived and operated his Tailor Shop here. Later, Jack Wiley's store occupied one side. This house then became rentals apartments.

**The Canning Factory**, also known as The Pickle Factory, operated in the 1940's in a small building to the South of the mill.



**The Allenford Broom Factory**, owned by the Strang sisters, began producing M. & E. Brooms in August 1929. The factory, with a staff of six, produced four dozen brooms a day. The broom factory closed about 1946.

**The Cheese Factory**, managed by Mr. Sypher in the summer of 1881, was located on the river bank. Another cheese factory was located on the bend of the Sauble on the outskirts of the village to the West. The last cheese maker sent an exhibit of 5 pounds of cheese to the Chicago's World Fair in 1933 and won fifth prize for "Allenford Cheese".

*On the South Side of the Sauble River:*  
 For many years, there were only two houses across the river: the Strang-Rollings House and the one at the Arnett Farm.

*Returning to Highway 21, Directly Ahead on the North Side of the Road:*  
**7735 Highway 21**  
**Rowe/Best's Store**



Many businesses have occupied this building: the first post office, the Farmer's Bank with living quarters, the Merchant's Bank, then the Bank of Montreal, a millinery shop and an ice cream parlour. When Maggie Rowe bought the building in 1930, she ran a busy store while providing rooms for boarders and meals for visitors in town. In the 40's, the Best's bought the house and grocery business. In 1949, the library returned to this building. The building now provides rental apartments. At one time, there were tennis courts to the West of this building.



# ALLENFORD

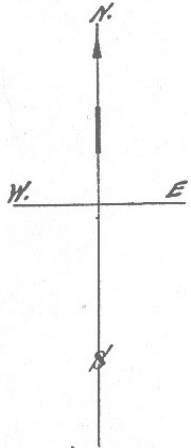
as laid out on Lots 10, 11, & 12, Concession A.

TOWNSHIP OF AMABEL COUNTY OF BRUCE.

Made by N.E.L.C.W. P.L. Surveyor.

for the Municipal Council.

I Certify that.....  
 the within instrument is duly entered and  
 Registered in the Registry Office for the  
 County of Bruce, in Book..... for the  
*James Dempster & James Allen*  
 at..... o'clock..... of the 25  
 day of..... A. D. 1887.  
 Number  
 260. *Charles Holtby*  
 Registrar



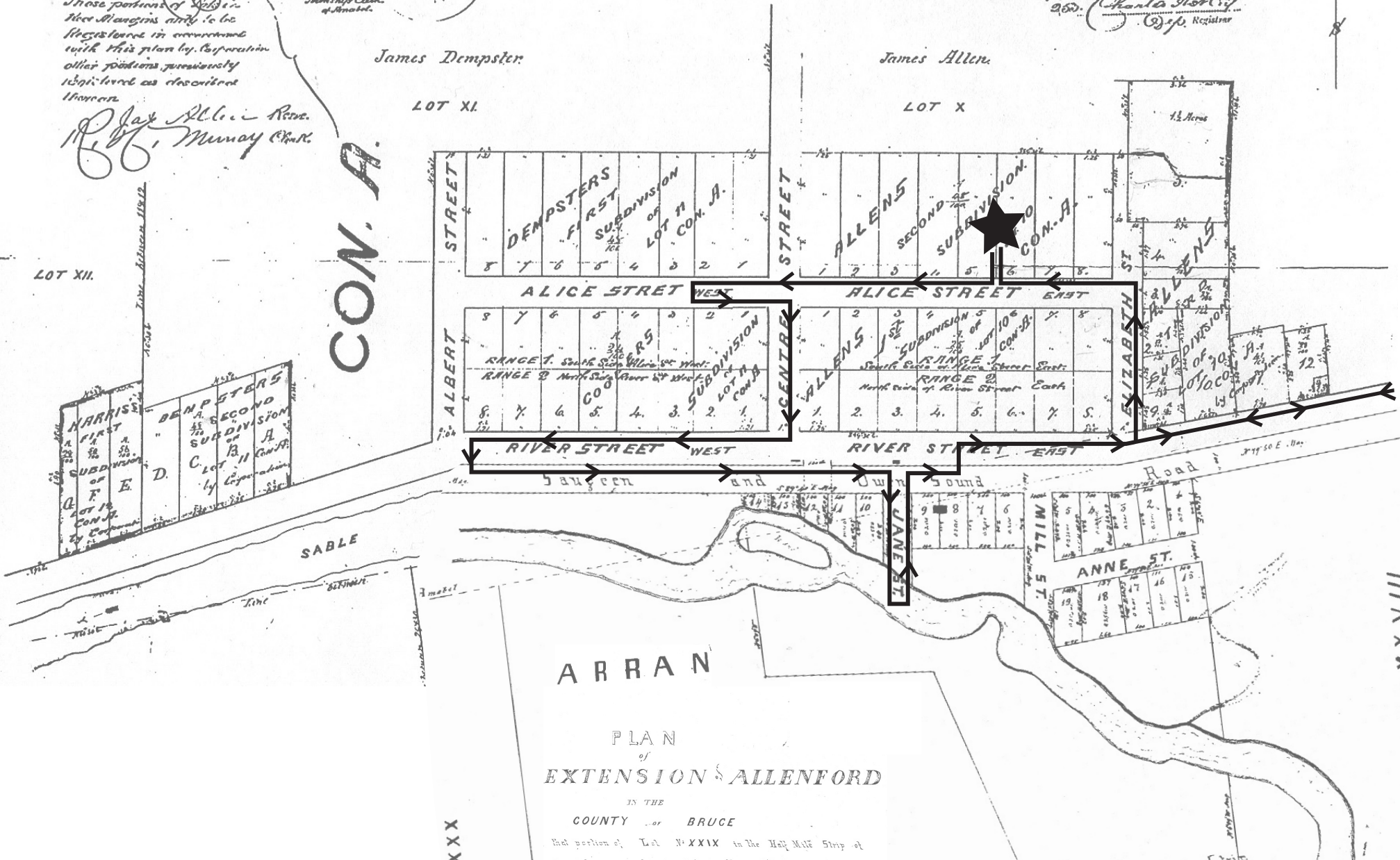
This Plan is called and is prepared  
 under the provisions of the Registry Act:  
 Winton Co. Bruce  
 May 4<sup>th</sup> 1887.

Nathaniel  
 P.L. Surveyor

*James Dempster*  
*James Allen*  
*R. G. Murray*  
 Township Clerk  
 of Amabel.

Those portions of Lots 10,  
 11 & 12 herein only to be  
 registered in accordance  
 with this plan by Corporation  
 other portions previously  
 registered as described  
 hereon.

*James Dempster*  
*James Allen*  
*R. G. Murray*



PLAN  
 of  
 EXTENSION of ALLENFORD

IN THE  
 COUNTY of BRUCE

That portion of Lot N° XXIX in the Half Mile Strip of

LOT XVIII