

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

While the Allingtown project is far from complete in December of 2020, the time has come to recognize the contributions made by a full spectrum of people, some who've intentionally supplied assistance, while others are unaware of how they've assisted. I am thinking mostly of the many past residents of Allingtown who built a place worth remembering, even celebrating, as this poor effort intends in part, to do. They are the folks who did the heavy lifting. I've but compiled the elements of their achievements to see to it that their community legacy is kept accessible and knowable.

The following are deserving of my gratitude. In no particular order, I thank:

- The 900+ members of the Growing Up in Allingtown discussion group on Facebook, whose memories, contributions and comments have been both informative and entertaining. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the spirited aid I've received from members, Diane O'Brien-Hyde, Michael Amato, Valerie Forte, James O'Brien, Jr, Barbara Unger Pyle, Mark Time and others who were so quick to respond it almost seemed I could post a query or two, go check on the mail and return to the screen to harvest the responses.
- The staff of the Louis J Piantino, Jr. Allingtown Branch of the West Haven Public Library, which is actually, without a home right now. Their building was sold earlier this year and so, when I put my inquiries to them they had to riffle through many boxes to locate the materials that might answer my questions. A performance and a courtesy way above their already dependable service available to all. Special thanks go to staff members Taylor and Sharlene, box sleuths.
- Ms. Kathleen Wielk, Vice-President for Community Relations and Leadership Giving at Notre Dame High School on Allingtown Hill. Kathy instantly took interest in the project and has provided generous amounts of assistance, primarily in lining up the support and assistance of others. I hope she knows I'll be calling on her for more of the same.
- Mr. Brian Musco, a junior at Notre Dame whose volunteer assistance has, thus far, fallen victim to the spread of Covid-19, leaving Brian homebound miles from Allingtown. His "stand-in," Jay Doody of West Haven is at the ready to be the first one to walk the walk on the tours.
- Ms. Carolyn Picciano, Library Specialist at the Connecticut State Library, who forwarded a valuable and much used collection of maps as well as with recommendations about other sources.
- Doctor, Professor Emeritus, Jon Purmont, who, as the head of the West Haven Historical Society has offered his encouragement for the project and a receptiveness to review the materials when they may finally be ready.
- Mr. Doug Whiting, Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations, at the University of New Haven, who is considering my proposal to expand beyond the current content presented on and about the UNH campus, Perhaps this can result in a sixth tour. One that would be campus specific.
- Thanks, also, to History Professor, Kent Germany, who allowed me in his HIST 599 class to stroll far off the Palmetto Trail.