

This is hallowed ground...

The land on which Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation is situated was once inhabited by the Lenni-Lenape Tribe. The camp is named after one of its great chiefs, Allamuchy. Even today, Scouts often find artifacts left by the Native Americans who once lived here.

Legend has it that somewhere near the north end of the camp is an Indian ceremonial ground known as the Wolf Den. Part of the ceremonial is built around the practice of collecting bits of silver metal found by the Native Americans in their campfires. These bits appear to have been caused by zinc in the rocks being melted by fire causing silver nuggets. The Wolf Den was last seen in 1938 when it was photographed. Since that time no one has rediscovered the site.

In the mid-1800's, a Mr. Frenche obtained a deed to the area that today is Byram Township and includes the camp. Since the area was covered with hemlocks at that time Mr. Frenche used the hemlock bark to make tannic acid. He constructed the dam which formed Frenche's Pond and later the dam which formed the lake above it called Wheeler Pond. A series of sluiceways were built to furnish water power and to float bark to the factory. Until 1973 you used to be able to see the remains of Frenche's house and factories as you entered camp from Waterloo Road. Particularly interesting was the long brick chimney he built along the ground and up the side of the hill to obtain adequate draft for his furnaces.

Just as Frenche got his tanbark mill in operation a synthetic, cheaper method of making tannic acid was discovered. And so being a determined man Frenche turned to another business of making artificial brussels carpets. This coincided with the completion of the Morris Canal and Frenche finally made his fortune selling carpets to the barge keepers for bumpers. Incidentally, the village of Waterloo is the site of the Morris Canal Locks and was once a thriving community.

The Morris-Sussex Area Council (now Patriots' Path Council) of the Boy Scouts of America purchased the 977 acres and named it after the Lenni-Lenape Cheftian, Allamuchy in 1945. In 1949 the Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation saw its first summer camp season.

This is one of the finest camps in the country. Enjoy it!