

THE ALLEN HISTORIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 31, Allen, MD 21810

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George Shivers, Editor

Fall Meeting

Our fall meeting will take place on Sunday, September 14 at 4:00pm in the Great Room of Asbury United Methodist Church in Allen.

Becky Miller, Director of the Nabb Center for Eastern Shore History and Culture will speak to us about the Center's program. There will also be a brief business meeting, following the program. Please come, if you can, and invite your friends. Our meetings are open to everyone!

Spring Meeting and Elections

The Society held its spring meeting in March. The primary business were elections. We elected the following officers for the next year.

President: George Shivers, continuing.

Vice-President: Velmar Morris

Secretary-Treasurer: Casey Parsons

Board Members are:

Melissa Bright (continuing)

Captain Lindley Allen Lentz (continuing)

Mary Payne (Honorary)

Florence Byrd Allen Cooper (Honorary)

Carolyn Ballou (new)

In other business, the Society passed a motion creating a committee to investigate renegotiating our mortgage on Passerdyke Cottage and also agreed to create a calendar for 2004 as a fundraiser.

Community Events

August 31, 3:30pm - Back Home Day at Friendship United Methodist Church, Upper

Ferry Road. Contact Rev. Candy Miles for information.

September 14, Fall Meeting of the Allen Historical Society, 4:00pm., Great Room, Asbury United Methodist Church, Collins Wharf Rd.

September 20-21 Pemberton Colonial Festival. (The Allen Historical Society will not have a booth at the Festival this year, but it is a fun occasion and you are encouraged to go and enjoy!)

October 26 Homecoming Service, Asbury United Methodist Church, Allen, 11:00am. Luncheon to follow the service.

Sunday, November 9, Allen Lions Club, Annual Pit Barbecue Beef Dinner, Allen Community Hall. Serving begins at 12:00noon.

Saturday, November 22, Asbury United Methodist Church Fall Bazaar, Allen Community Hall

Passerdyke Cottage Campaign

by George Shivers

June of next year will mark the fifth anniversary of the Society's purchase of Passerdyke Cottage. That purchase was a major undertaking for such a young organization, and it was thanks to the generous donations of members and friends

that we were able to accomplish it. During the past four years we have established a small museum and library on the second floor of the building, while we have rented the ground floor in order to help us with the mortgage and expenses. Our small museum has been open for visitors for two hours on Sunday afternoons during the summer months, as well as on other special occasions and we have had numerous visitors. Our small library has proven useful to persons researching their family history on several occasions. We hope to find ways to attract even more visitors in the future, however, our space is limiting future growth. No doubt we would have the occasion to receive loans or donations of larger items, such as furnishings, if we were able to occupy the entire building. Of course, the only way that we can do that is to pay off the mortgage. We have four years remaining on the nine-year mortgage that we assumed at the time of purchase. In dollars we owe approximately \$20,000. At this time I would like to issue a challenge on behalf of the Society and the Museum I am issuing a challenge. Let's see if we can't pay off that debt by June, 2004 and celebrate the museum's fifth anniversary with a mortgage burning! With the following plan we could accomplish that goal, for example:

1 donation of \$5000 +
5 donations of \$1000+
10 donations of \$500+

10 donations of \$250+
20 donations of \$100+
10 donations of \$50+

Please consider whether you might be able to contribute to this campaign at some level during the next ten months. Ask your friends to contribute as well. Keep in mind that the Allen Historical Society is less than ten years old, yet has made amazing strides toward educating our community on our heritage during that time. What are some of those accomplishments?

1. Establishing the Passerdyke Cottage Museum and library.
2. Sponsoring lectures on topics of local history, which were open to the community at large.
- 3.. Successful nomination of Asbury United Methodist Church to the National Register of Historic Places.
4. Placing of historical markers at Asbury United Methodist Church, Friendship United Methodist Church, and the site of the Adams Brothers Mill.
5. Spearheading the celebration of three hundred years of community in the Allen area during 2002, including presentation of a historical pageant and sponsorship of the first "Allen, Past and Present Tour."
6. With the support of the Delmarva Rural Development Committee at UMES, establishing an internet site

which has brought inquiries from many people seeking information on local families or local history.

7. Publishing both a history of Allen and a genealogical history of the Huffington family.

8. Publishing three calendars featuring historic photographs of the Allen area.

9. Setting up exhibits on the history of Allen as part of the tricentennial celebration, as well as at the Salisbury Festival.

10. Demonstrating the making of Maryland beaten biscuits each fall at the Pemberton Colonial Fair.

All of this, and much more, has been accomplished through the hardwork and dedication of many members. Think how much more we can accomplish once the Cottage is fully ours!

Recent Acquisitions to Our Collection

We would like to thank Captain Lindley Lentz for his contribution of a number of books dealing with the history and culture of the lower Eastern Shore. They represent a substantial addition to our library and are most appreciated.

We would also like to thank Norris and Barbara Howard for making available to us photographic negatives found in the attic of their home. The package was dated 1936, though it is clear that the pictures (since developed and added to our

collection) may extend at least to 1942, since one shows the burned out Smith house across the street, known to have been destroyed by fire in that year. Most of the pictures portray members of the Wallace family, including Herschel Wallace, his brother Fred and their mother Ella Phoebus Wallace. There are also pictures of the Wallace house and of the old store and post office building.

Our gratitude to Mr. James K. Black who has sent us a genealogy of the Black family of Fruitland and Allen. Rebecca Caroline Black married James Morris Polk in ? and they were the parents of a large family whose descendants continue to live in the area.

Bettie Sue Malone has donated an audio taped oral history interview, which her son Roscoe conducted with his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Payne.

A video recording made by Jeanette Sherbondy of the Tricentenary July 4th. Parade, 200

A complete print out of the 1930 Federal Census for Wicomico County, Trappe District.

Thanks to Rosalie Fields for her donation of a record book from the Allen School and a large photographic portrait of a John Malone. It appears to be from the late 19th century.

William Franklin Messick
November 22, 1873-June 16, 1973
by Casey Parsons

Mr. Will, or Mr. Willie, as he was most often called, grew up in Allen, worked hard for his father as a boy, and attended elementary school there through the seventh grade. When he was about 26 years old, he married Minnie White of Stockton and worked in various business jobs for many years. When he was 47 years old, he founded the W.F. Messick Ice Company of Salisbury, which remained prosperous throughout his lifetime. He served on the Wicomico County Council as president for thirteen years and on the city council from 1920 to 1924, part of that time as president.

William F. Messick was born in Allen in the old Messick-Stewart house, which stood at that time on the west side of the road through Allen. He was born just six years after Wicomico County was formed from parts of Worcester and Somerset. The house was moved across the road in 1881 when Messick's father, Benjamin Franklin Messick, and mother, Mary Isabel Porter Messick, build a new house on the old site. Messick later said that he went to live in the new house with his father and mother when he was nine years old. He continued to live in the Messick house until about 1900, when he was twenty-six years old and went out on his own.

During the years in which he lived in Allen he helped his father with farming, carpentry and sawmill businesses, all of which his father was involved in at the time. He declared many times that he knew what hard work was and that it had made an impression upon him throughout his life. He went to school through seven grades, first in a one-room school that stood in the northwest corner of the church yard opposite the home of Levin B. (Squire) Price, and later in the two-room school where the Allen Community Hall now stands. Messick once recalled that it wasn't a little red schoolhouse he had attended, but

that it was whitewashed and had brown shutters.

Some of the children, he said, went to school through the winter but then dropped out to work full time on the family farm. He didn't stop school to work, he recalled, but their farm was located in back of the school and he had to go home when classes were over for the day and work on the farm until dark. He once said that the experience of hard work had helped him avoid failure in life many times.

Mr. Messick remembered schoolmaster Squire Price as a kind and scholarly man. Price never had a watch, Messick recalled, but had a remarkable sense of timing which enabled him to keep a schedule. There was a deep notch cut in the window sill of one of the south windows to mark the noon hour. It was "Willie" Messick usually who called out the noon hour: "Mr. Price, sun's in the mark!" In later years Mr. Messick recalled that Price had a way of restoring order by stomping his foot sharply on the floor two times and calling, "Come!, Come!" Some of the older boys would get up as if to obey his commands to come. Another feature that Mr. Messick remembered in his later years were the birch switches that Price kept in the window behind his desk, switches he used freely when he saw the need.

When he was about twenty-six years old, Mr. Messick had a chance to buy a store down by the pond at the corner of Cottman Road. By this time he was married to Minnie White. He didn't have the money to pay for the store, but by borrowing \$200 for the down payment he became a storekeeper for the next five years.

He grew dissatisfied with the store business. There were times when business was terribly slow and times when some of the customers failed to pay their accounts after he had extended credit. He sold the store, he said, to Kirby Hitch, brother of Beverly Hitch of Allen, and obtained a job with the E.E. Jackson Lumber Company in

Riderville, Alabama, running a commissary. This was the Jackson Company which was also located in Salisbury. The Messicks stayed in Alabama only three months, when their daughter, Marie, got sick and they returned to Wicomico County. The child died at the age of nineteen months.

The Messicks came back to Salisbury in the fall of 1905. He got a job with the city and county making up registration books. That job only lasted a year and he then got a job with the Salisbury Ice Co., located on Naylor Street, at a salary of \$9 per week to start. He soon became assistant manager and managed the company for Jesse Price, the owner, who was serving as congressman for the First Congressional District. Mr. Price, who had been county treasurer, had hired Mr. Messick to work for the county and realized his ability to work and take responsibility. The ice business was good during those years between 1910 and 1929. Hundreds of railroad cars were iced weekly to take shore produce to the city in fresh condition. Mr. Messick said, "I remember working almost every waking hour during weekends."

In the summer of 1920, however, Mr. Messick realized that Mr. Price told him that since he wasn't going back to congress, he would be able to take over his old manager's job. Consequently, Mr. Messick would be demoted and although it was no fault of his, his pay would be cut by an amount he considered substantial and unacceptable. He thought about what to do. In August of 1920, Messick left the Salisbury Ice Co., and started to organize the W.F. Messick Ice Co. He purchased the property on Vine Street with money raised by selling stock in the new company. He didn't want to have stockholders, but found it necessary at first. Later, when the company prospered, he bought the stock back as fast as he could. After he got the land, he built a plant to house his new first-class ice-making machinery.

In the spring of 1921, he bought four more trucks, enabling him to serve ice beyond Salisbury on a daily basis, as far as Fruitland, White Haven, Nanticoke and Bivalve. The territory gradually extended to Pittsville, Parsonsberry and Willards to the east and to just about every town in Wicomico County. The children in the towns would run out to the ice truck and beg the driver for a chip of ice. Usually the drivers were kind enough to chip off a piece for the youngsters to suck on. Many businesses, especially restaurants, were glad to have ice delivered to them each day and even after the coming of electrical refrigeration about 1927, Messick recalled that many homes and businesses still bought ice each day.

After going into business in 1920, the ice company finally got a franchise to ice American Railway Express cars on the shore. They carried strawberries and other fruits and vegetables to the cities. He didn't get the franchise right away, he said, because the railroad company had to be persuaded to leave the Salisbury Ice Co., where they had their business for so long. At first, Messick got only the railroad business which the other company couldn't handle, but gradually this changed. When he left the Salisbury Ice Co., Mr. Messick said he was able to take many private customers with him, because he had good relations with them when he had managed the other company. The railroad business, however, proved harder to win over, although he finally got that business which lasted for many years. "But the last car we iced," he said, "was a carload of strawberries in 1927 after the advent of electrical refrigeration." (Daily Times, Nov. 19, 1963).

WRITER'S NOTE: *Mr. Messick may have been misquoted about the time the icing of railroad cars stopped. He may have said, or meant to say, that it was in 1947, which is nearer the actual time. It has been established that icing of railroad cars continued in Salisbury until about 1948,*

when a new icing platform was built in Delmar. The icing of cars there continued until the 1960's.

After electrical refrigeration was introduced to the railroad business, Mr. Messick recalled, they turned to the trucking business, which was just beginning to prosper. Most of the trucking business consisted of transporting poultry to distant cities. This business lasted for a long time, well into the 1960's and probably much longer.

Mr. Messick's hair remained thick, turning white when he was about 60. It started to turn black again at the root when he was about 90. His 90th birthday fell on the same day that President John F. Kennedy was shot in Dallas, November 22, 1963. He was in good health as he celebrated at a party in the old house where he had grown up in Allen and where his daughter, Anne Desmond, lived at that time.

A few days before his 90th birthday party he was interviewed by Helen J. Perry of the *Times* staff and related many of his experiences, which are described here. He told how he was able to purchase the controlling interest in the old Salisbury Ice Co. in 1936 and operated it until 1958. At that time part of the old property was sold for a machine shop and the rest, in 1962, for another business. "Surprising as it may seem, with electric refrigerators, some people still buy ice for home use. We sold routes to the men on the trucks and they continue to peddle ice. There are four such trucks in daily operation." (Perry, *Salisbury Times*, 1963)

Mr. Messick said, "We are making as much ice today as the two plants did when both were in operation." (Perry, *Salisbury Times*, 1963). Mr. Messick believed in keeping busy. At 90 he remained active in the Masonic Lodge and was treasurer of the Salisbury Scottish Rite Bodies, a post he had held since 1921. He became a 33rd Degree Mason in 1951.

In 1941 Mr. Messick became a member of a "blue ribbon board" appointed by Governor Herbert R. O'Connor to take over after the entire Board of County Commissioners for Wicomico County had resigned following the discovery of embezzlement by a county employee. The other members of the new board were Henry S. Todd, W. Lee Allen, Elijah Ennis and Ralph Dulaney. The others elected Messick president at their first meeting, a position which he kept for 13 years. In 1954, he received a certificate of appreciation from then Governor Theodore R. McKeldin and Secretary of State John R. Reeves for serving as commissioner since 1941.

At his 90th birthday party, he said, when he was reminded of so many recognitions, "I was proud but really undeserving." (Perry, *Salisbury Times*, 1963) At 90 he remained a senior active member of the Rotary Club, which he joined in 1927, and boasted of thirteen years of perfect attendance.

Mr. Messick attended Trinity Church with his wife each Sunday where he served as chairman of the Board of Stewards for nineteen years. "I gave that up nine years ago," he said in 1963 (*Salisbury Times*) Mr. Messick's first wife, Minnie, died in 1933, and eight years later, he married Mrs. Alice H. Smith. At that time Mr. Messick had two surviving children. In addition to Mrs. Desmond, there was another daughter, Ruth, whose husband, George O. Hendrickson, became president of the W.F. Messick Ice Co., when Messick retired. There were three grandchildren, Pat and Jeannie Hendrickson and Bill Desmond.

Mr. Messick was a big, tall man with natural health and vigor. He never exercised as an end in itself, but walked a lot. He had a healthy appetite and enjoyed good food throughout his life. I never heard him complain of indigestion or discomfort after eating. Once, at a dinner table, someone asked him if he wanted vinegar on his turnip greens. He replied, "No, I like greens just

the way they are.” He never used alcohol or tobacco in any form. When someone complimented him about this, he replied, “Well, I don’t deserve any credit for it because I never wanted it.” As a young boy in Allen, he was sick a lot, he once related to us. His parents were worried over him, afraid he might not live long. “I finally got over it,” he said, “and one of the reasons, I believe, is that I ate a lot of molasse with butter and homemade biscuits, which I really loved.” For the rest of his life he enjoyed good health, never going to the doctor or the hospital. Finally, at the age of 93, he entered the hospital for prostate treatment.

From the time he purchased Salisbury Ice Co. in 1936 until he was past 90 years of age, he enjoyed a useful and satisfying life. Managing the successful ice business, attending lodge meetings and local government meetings, going to church each Sunday, spending summers in Ocean City on Baltimore Ave. behind the old Washington Hotel; all of these things combined with his good health to give him a satisfying olife. During that time he received many awards and certificates of appreciation for public service. Over the years he was able to acquire many real estate properties in Salisbury and Allen in the name of the ice company for his children and grandchildren. One property was the large home on Walnut Street in Salisbury where he and Alice lived for many years and where they periodically entertained their children and grandchildren.

Mr. Messick purchased the F. E. Smith & Sons farm in Allen and rebuilt the quaint old farm house about 1945. During the 1930’s the little house was used by the Smith family to cut potatoes for planting. The rebuilt structure was named “The Doll House” and was to be used as a summer home for Mr. & Mrs. Messick. It was about then, however, that they decided to spend their summers in Ocean City. The Doll House was occupied for a while by two of the Smith children: Mary Belle, Clifford’s daughter, and Frances Anne, daughter of

Walter Smith. The main farm house of the Smith family, which stood near the Doll House, burned in 1942.

Mr. Messick celebrated his last birthday, his 99th, at his home on Walnut Street in 1972. Larry Bates, president of the Rotary Club, came and presented a birthday card to him, signed by more than 100 club members. His close friend and fellow commission member, Ralph Dulaney, was there to reminisce about the old days on the Board. Wife Alice presented the birthday cake to him. Unfortunately Mr. Will couldn’t see the cake very well, but he could know and appreciate what was going on. It was interesting that his wife called him “Sweetie” and he called her “Dear.” Even when they argued, they called each other by the familiar names of endearment.

The two gifts he most appreciated on his 99th birthday, as he celebrated a long, happy and successful life, were the ones Larry Bates brought: the card signed by 100 members of the Rotary Club and an honorary membership for the coming year. Dick Moore, editor of the *Salisbury Times*, attended the party and wrote about it in the paper on November 23, 1972. Mr. Will was able to sample the birthday cake brought along by John Snee, incoming president of Rotary. Mr. Will says that he is growing feeble but can still hear and has no aches or pains. He gets up about 7:30 each morning, at age 99, and eats breakfast at 8:30. Nurse Nellie Boone sits with him during the night. He has lunch about 2:00 and a snack at 8:00pm. He walks each day with a cane and his wife’s help, in good weather down to the end of Walnut Street, and Alice usually takes him for a ride in the car. Now that he is 99, he has started drinking for the first time. Several times each week, Alice serves him some milk with a raw egg and a spot of brandy. “I feel it has helped him and his physician agrees.”

Mr. Will’s father, Benjamin F. Messick, lived to be 92, and his mother, Mary Porter, lived to be 88. Judging by the pictures on the mantel on Walnut Street, Mr. Will had

the long, determined face of his mother. On the other end of the mantel were the pictures of Mrs. Messick's parents, Leonard Hunter Higgins, who lived to be 85, and Mrs. Higgins, who died at 78. (*Salisbury Times*, November 23, 1972). Leonard Higgins, Mrs. Messick's father, sold men's clothing on Main Street in Salisbury almost all his life. He operated his own store there for a while in the early 1900's on the north side of Main Street just east of St. Peter's in the building later occupied by White and Leonard's drug store and soda fountain.

"I've had a good life and a good wife," he exclaimed that day as he rose to be photographed with his wife Alice and the birthday cake. He also said, with a smile, as he struggled to get up, "I feel like a man a 100 years old."

Mr. Will took to his bed in early June of 1973 and remained there several days before letting go of his life, which he had obviously dearly loved. Mr. Ralph Dulaney came to visit him until the end and remarked about how long it would probably take him to go. The late Thornton Hitch of Allen once remarked, as we looked over some old trees along the Allen Community Hall line that were almost dead but still had some green buds showing, "An old man is like a tree which lives for 100 years and then takes another 100 years to die." Mr. Will clung to life because of his robust health, not because of his reluctance to leave. One of his grandchildren asked him one day, when he was about 95, if it wasn't rewarding for him to live so long and still have good health? "Yes, that's true," he replied, "but life becomes weary when you grow old and your friends all die. It makes you feel alone." One day, during his final confinement in bed, his nurse heard him singing softly to himself that old hymn of the church, "IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL! "

Mr. Messick lies buried in the Allen Cemetery just outside the door to the church, as if positioned to offer a greeting to

the people entering and leaving the church as time goes by.

The History of the Allen School by Casey Parsons

As I was writing the story about the late William F. Messick growing up in Allen, some questions arose regarding the exact time frame of the old Allen School. When was it built? What did it look like? Was the old building moved up to the community hall grounds in the 1880's or was it torn down and a new one-room building erected? How long did Mrs. Mary Whittington Allen teach in the old building?

The first account to be considered here is that found in the 1977 edition of *Wicomico's One-Room Schools*, written by Mrs. Mildred Whayland Gillis, who taught for many years in Allen, starting in 1918. Another source of information is *The History of Allen, Maryland* by Florence Byrd Allen Cooper (1981). There are probably many private sources hidden away as well as stories passed down through the years by word of mouth.

The following story about the school is a direct account from Mrs. Gillis's book: "The first school in Allen was started by Mrs. Mary Whittington Allen in 1838. She taught in the dining room of her home during the morning. Later a small building was erected in a corner of the church yard. Mrs. Allen taught there for a

few years. Then, as the attendance grew, a new one-room building was erected on the lot where the Allen Community Hall now stands. This building was still being used in 1885. Squire Levin B. Price, who was born in 1833 and lived until 1897 was the teacher then. He was remembered as a very strict instructor who never spared the rod when he considered it necessary. In the late 1890's a two-room school was built, but only one room was used as a classroom until 1903. Miss Grace Allen and Miss Lizzie Twiford were teachers before 1902. In September, 1902, Mrs. Ida Ward Gordy was assigned to the Allen School. The enrollment was too high for one teacher to instruct, so in January, 1903, Miss Martha Huffington was appointed to primary grades 1 through 5. Mrs. Gordy taught grades 6 through 8. From 1903 until May, 1921, Allen was a two-room school. Then the enrollment decreased and from 1921 to May 1937 it became a one-room school again. In September, 1937 the Allen School children were bussed to the new consolidated school in Fruitland."

The story of the Allen School picks up again in Florence Byrd Allen Cooper's book of 1981: "The first school in the village of which anything is known was in the dining room of the home of Mrs. Mary Whittington Allen. Classes were held in the morning for all who wanted to attend. At a later time a one-room building was constructed on one corner of the church lot. Mrs.

Allen also taught there. Mr. Levin B. Price was also one of the first teachers in Allen. He was known as "Squire Prifce" by everyone; some even corrupting to "Square Price." He lived on the corner lot in front of the church where Mrs. Jean Nichols built a home." Florence Byrd goes on to quote from a long letter by Fred Messick (a brother of Will Messick), who related many colorful stories of goings on in the classroom of Squire Price but not anything about the building itself. Messick does say that "Squire Price taught school in Allen from 1860 -1893." After relating classroom activities, the story of the school building continues: Around 1887 or 1888 the original school building was moved and the present one built by Mr. Jack Huffington. At first it consisted of one room, but later became a two-room school. At one time there were nine or ten grades there, and such subjects as Latin, Algebra and Geometry were taught. Students who wished to continue their education went from the ninth or tenth grade to a prep school, college or Normal School. Later this school changed back to one room with only seven grades."

Mr. William F. Messick grew up in Allen and attended both the old one-room school and the two-room school on the Community Hall lot. At his 90th birthday party he talked to the reporter from the *Salisbury Times* about his school days: "I went to a little one-room school house," he said, "and later to a two-

room school where the Allen Community Hall stands today. It wasn't a little red schoolhouse. It was whitewashed and had brown shutters," he recalled. "But I quit in the seventh grade. It was pretty tough when we were growing up. If the strawberry crop failed, we had nothing to live on for the rest of the year. But we always made out. Some of the children only went to school during the winter months. When spring came, they had to work on their father's farms. I didn't quit in the spring though. Our farm was in the back of the school and after classes were over, I had to go home that way and work until dark."

Captain Lindley Lentz recalls talking with his mother and grandmother about the old school and thinks that the one-room school on the church lot was built just prior to the Civil War, probably between 1858-1860. It was built on church property by local citizens.

The purpose of this article is to tell the story of the church in Allen over the years and to fill in a few details which were left vague in past writings. It now seems that Mrs. Allen, as the others relate, started teaching in her dining room in the mornings anybody who wanted to learn in 1838. She continued teaching in her home until about 1858-1860, when the local people built a one-room school on the corner of the church lot. This continued to operate for about fifteen years until the newly formed

Wicomico County (1867) purchased a half-acre lot where the community hall is now from John A. Twigg and wife in 1873 (George Shivers research in Wicomico County Land Records.)

Shortly after the County purchased the lot, in 1874 or 1875, they built another, larger one-room school. The old school on the church lot was moved away. The larger one-room school on the Community Hall lot is shown on the map of 1877, sandwiched between the properties of William J. Bounds on the south and J. Hitch on the north. This one-room school was used until 1887. It was moved away after the two-room school, built by Jack Huffington, was put into use.

Since Mr. W.F. Messick attended school in Allen for seven years, about 1880-1887, and says that he attended a whitewashed school with brown shutters and also a two-room school, he must have attended the one-room school on the Community Hall lot, finishing the seventh grade in the new two-room school.

The Allen School was consolidated with Fruitland in 1937. Shortly after that the property was transferred to the church as a community property.

Buddy's Garage

by Casey Parsons based on an interview with Douglas Nichols, May 22, 2003

Editor's Note: *In the last edition of the Historian I included an article written by Norris Howard on Ralph Bounds and his Somerset Garage. There were two other garages for automobile repair in the village during the same period, one is the subject of this article. The second was run by Herbert Elzey on the site of the Banks Store Building at the north end of the millpond. It is no doubt indicative of the revolution brought about by the introduction of the automobile that there were three mechanics' garages in the little village of Allen in the early decades of the 20th century.*

The small, narrow building at the corner of Allen Road and Cathell Road was built about 1920 as an auto repair shop by Buddy Malone, son of Ashland Malone. Douglass says that he thinks Buddy didn't sell gas there, only repairs, during the 1920's and early 1930's.

Ralph Bounds ran a repair shop and gas station on the south end of Allen, near the Eden-Allen Road intersection during this same period.

The name BUDDY'S GARAGE remained visible for many years during the 1950's and 1960's. The letters were painted in bold, red letters across the front of the building.

It is believed that this location, Cathell Road, is the place of the early crossing of Passerdyke Creeik when horse and wagon traffic travelled to the east of the pond across the

Gunby and Cathell farms before the milldam was built.

Miscellaneous Notes on Allen's History

Submitted by Casey Parsons

Mr. W. F. Messick recalled in his later years that the old Whayland store at the corner of Allen and Cottman Roads was run by a man named E. Winfield Whayland, then by W. F. Messick, then by Kirby Hitch, brother of Beverly Hitch.

(Editor's Note: *There was a store on that site earlier in the 19th century owned by James Dashiell.*)

The old post office was also a store shown in the 1877 Atlas. Mr. B.F. Messick owned the land along the east side of the road next to the pond.

(Editor's Note: *As noted earlier, the Historical Society recently acquired photographs of that old building from the Wallace family. The building was torn down in the 1960's. It may well have been the oldest commercial building in the village, since Stephen Drura had a store there in the early decades of the 19th century.*

There was a canning factory at the northwest corner of the bridge. The factory was run by the Messick Brothers and burned down in 1926. The late Thornton Hitch once recalled to me how a boat used to steam up to the old canning factory, right there by the bridge, and take on cargo. He said the boat captain had to maneuver seriously to get the

boat turned around in close quarters, ready to go out before loading. Once the boat was loaded, he would wait for high tide and hope he could make it.

Mr. Messick recalled a liquor store in Allen, just north of the old Smith house (now the property of Al Prestilio, who lives next door in the old John Huffington house). The store was run by a man named O'Neil. It burned down one night in the 1890's from a fire suspected to have been set by vandals. Mr. Messick said it was speculated that the vandals were urged on by people who objected to the business there.

The 1877 Atlas also shows the old J.&W. Allen store across from the W.F. Allen house. "Dealers in dry goods and groceries, patent medicines, boots, shoes, hardware and crockery, paints, oils, dye stuffs, glass, drugs & medicines, fancy goods, hats & caps, and all other goods usually kept in a country store. Cheap for cash or produce. Upper Trappe, MD," as the advertisement in the Atlas reads.

The Second Wife of Jonathan Huffington - Sally Benson or Sally Bounds?

by George Shivers

In the Huffington family Bible it is recorded that Jonathan Huffington wed his second wife, Sarah (Sally) Benson on January 16, 1841. *Somerset County Marriages* confirms that date and the name of the bride. On the other hand, Ruth Dryden in her book

The Boundless Bounds Family, published in 1989 reports that Sarah (Sally) Bounds was the woman Mr. Huffington took as his second wife. Unfortunately, Mrs. Dryden doesn't give any documentation of her information. That being the case, I think we have to accept that Huffington married Sarah (Sally) Benson as recorded in the two aforementioned documents. In perusing Mrs. Dryden's book, however, I discovered some interesting connections between the family of Sarah Bounds and Jonathan Huffington.

Who was this Sarah (Sally) Bounds? According to Dryden she was born about 1810 in Somerset County, the daughter of William Richard Bounds and his first wife, Sally Kibble, who were married on January 2, 1810. After the death of his first wife, her father married Sally Morris on March 22, 1824. She was born about 1800 and died sometime after 1860.

William Richard Bounds was a farmer in Trappe District. On June 16, 1818 Eliab Beard sold him sixteen acres on the southside of the Wicomico River near the Upper Ferry. Some years later John Rider sold him 55 acres also near Upper Ferry. This is precisely the area in which Jonathan Huffington purchased property in 1816 and where he lived until the 1840's. William Bounds died in 1833; his will was probated on February 13 of that year. The witnesses were Jonathan Huffington, Levin Morris

and William Taylor. Thus, it is clear that the Bounds family and the Huffington family were neighbors and apparently close friends.

The children of William Steven Bounds by his two wives were:

- (1) Sarah (Sally), born c. 1810
- (2) James Henry, born c. 1811
- (3) William Richard, Jr., born June 20, 1816
- (3) Richard Steven, born June 27, 1817
- (4) John J., born before 1820
- (5) Elizabeth Rebecca, born November 3, 1822
- (6) George Washington, born c. 1830
- (7) Jones F., born c. 1831

Jonathan Huffington had married his first wife, Henrietta Adams, in 1819. Her death occurred twenty years later in 1839. On the one hand, it would not be surprising that the widower would turn to the household of his late neighbor and friend, William Bounds, to find a second wife. By the time they wed in 1841 Sally Bouonds would have been 31 years old, while Huffington was almost twenty-five years older. Nevertheless, as noted, the existing documents do not support this conclusion.

An interesting detail is that Sally Bounds' grandfather William, born on June 10, 1759, married a woman named Rebecca, who, according to Ruth Dryden, was perhaps the daughter of John Benson. Thus, ironically, there may be a Bounds/

Benson connection two generations before Jonathan Huffington's second marriage..

The fact is that almost no information has come down to us regarding the exact identity of either Henrietta Adams or Sarah Benson. Their marriages to Mr. Huffington are documented, and the death date for Henrietta Adams is recorded in the family Bible. Not even that information exists for Sarah Benson. A further mystery regarding both wives has to do with where they are buried. Mr. Huffington has an impressive monument in the cemetery of Asbury United Methodist Church in Allen, to the left of the entrance, facing the church. There is no marker, however, to indicate that his wives are buried there. Were they buried elsewhere in family burial grounds belonging to their birth families or perhaps even somewhere on the Huffington farm, now lost to memory? Mysteries that will perhaps never be resolved.

The Bounds/Davis Family

Editor's Note: I recently received an email inquiry from Mr. Edward H. Brown of Albany, New York. He provides interesting information about his family, and therefore, with his permission, I am reproducing part of the content of his letter here.

My mother Alma (Davis) Brown spent a significant part of her young life (2 to 11 years old) in Allen from about 1925-1931 and returned during

the summer of 1937 as a 14 year old and again in 1945 to take care of her grandmother before she passed in August of that year. My great-grandmother, who my Mom stayed with when she was young and cared for when she was older (a 22 year old adult) was named Martha Ella Bounds before she married my great-grandfather Columbus Davis. They had one son, my grandfather, Allman Davis, who was born in 1897 and died young, around 1930. My great-grandmother had several brothers and one sister, all born in Allen prior to and shortly after the Civil War. My mother distinctly remembers that one of her grandmother's older brothers, my great-grand Uncle Charles Bounds was 89 in the year 1937, which would place his birth in the year 1857. I would conclude from this that he was born in slavery and became free as a young child. There was a younger brother named Grant Bounds, who was a traveler and left Upper Trappe to return to Allen after the name changed. Both Charles and Grant had children and grandchildren, the descendants of whom would be my cousins.

On October 13, 1912 my great-grandparents Martha and Columbus Davis bought property in the Trappe Election District from a Mr. Purnell J. McBriety for \$400. This was the property that my mother lived on with her grandma as a child. My great-grandfather died shortly before my Mom was born in 1922 and eventually my great-grandma

remarried into the Brewington family.

Editor's Note: After receiving Mr. Brown's message I investigated the federal census records for Trappe District. In the 1880 census a Martha E. Bounds appears as a 12 year old child in the household of her parents William Bounds, born c. 1840, and Maranda Bounds, born c. 1840. She has several younger brothers and sisters, Lanona J., James E., Ernest, Samuel T, and Daniel. Her father was listed in the census as a fisherman. Interestingly, she is listed as a one-year old child in the 1870 census in the household of Samuel Bounds, age 75, apparently her grandfather, listed as a laborer. Her mother Maranda is also listed there, so apparently she was living at her parents home at that time.

In the 1910 census data we find Columbus Davis, farmer, with his wife Martha E. and their 12 year-old son Aulmann J. Davis. In the 1920 census data the name of Columbus Davis appears, age 60, with his wife Martha, age 50, and an adopted son Wendell, as well as one of Martha's sisters, Adeline Bounds, age 60.

Current Allen residents, Hazel Bounds Northan and Lillian Bound Denton, share the same ancestry as Mr. Brown.

2004 Calendars

Once again the Society will be publishing a calendar for the next year, with photographs from Allen's past. The calendars will be available by late September. If you are interested in purchasing one, send your order to Casey Parsons at the

Society's post office box. The theme will be "Allen Residents at Work and Play".

January - Sleigh Ride in the 1930's
February - Skating on the Pond in the 1960's - Allen Boys on the Ice
March - Fred and Estelle Handy
April - A Gathering of Young Ladies of Allen in the 1930's
May - Bill Tull and Dare Polk Gunther at the Phillips' Store - 1930's
June - Boy Scout Troop 181 Camping at Ocean City, 1950's
July - A Backyard Gathering of Members of the Polk Family
August - Herschel Wallace and the Wallace Store and Post Office
September - Fodder-Saving Time, 1918
October - Dick Porter - Allen's Contribution to Baseball
November - David Kolb, Jr. at the Store, 1989
December - Collage: Sunday-School Christmas Pageants at Asbury United Methodist Church