

THE ALLEN HISTORIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 31, Allen, MD 21810

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George Shivers, Editor

In Memoriam: Kathryn Pollitt Carey: June 23, 1920 - August 16, 2006

The village of Allen and our Society mourn the loss of Kathryn Pollitt Carey. "Miss" Kathryn was born in Allen on June 23, 1920, the daughter of Jesse M. Pollitt and Agnes Malone Pollitt. Her husband, Willis C. Carey, Jr. and her daughter Judith died in a tragic fire in 1970 that also destroyed the historic home built by her great-grandfather, Caleb Twilley in 1848. Facing that terrible tragedy with dignity and stoicism, "Miss" Kathryn went on to rebuild on the same lot and lived the rest of her life on the site on which her family's roots are so deep. She is survived by a daughter, Betty C. Sumstine and her husband, Ed, of Salisbury; a son, Willis Pollitt Carey and his wife, Virginia, of Allen; a sister, Mary Lee Pollitt Kolb of Allen; three grandchildren, Edward W. Sumstine, James S. Sumstine and Christopher Willis Carey; three great-grandchildren, Caleah, Karl and Kathryn (Kate) Sumstine; and by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

"Miss Kathryn was a charter member of our Society and one of our most dedicated and active supporters. Whatever the activity in which we were involved, she could be counted

on to be present and hard at work. During the years when we demonstrated the art of Maryland beaten biscuit making at the Pemberton Colonial Fair, she could be seen in full colonial garb, biscuit beater in hand! In 2002 when we celebrated our community's tricentennial with a historical pageant, she portrayed Mrs. Mildred Gilliss, who was a fixture at the Allen School from 1918 until it closed in 1937. No doubt she got a lot more laughs from the audience than "Miss Whayland" got from her students! "Miss" Kathryn also wrote an article on her childhood experiences at the Allen School for an edition of this newsletter.

Of course, her community spirit was not limited to the Historical Society. Her interest in local history also motivated her membership in the Somerset County Historical Society. She was a member of Allen Asbury United Methodist Church, where at various times she taught Sunday School, supported the Methodist Youth Fellowship, served as pianist and substitute organist, and sang in the choir until a few weeks before her death. She was also a member of the United Methodist Women. She devoted herself in various ways to the Cub Scouts, the Boy Scouts, and the Allen Lions Club. She was a

member and past president of the Allen Volunteer Fire Company's Women's Auxiliary and of the Ladies' Auxiliary BPOE 817.

The Allen Historical Society extends sincere condolences to the members of her family. We will all miss her!

Historical Society Fall Meeting

The fall meeting of the Allen Historical Society will take place on Saturday, September 23 at 2:30pm in the Great Room of Asbury United Methodist Church, Allen. Among other items of business, we will consider several program and fundraising proposals, including a repetition of our very successful bus tour, a Cemetery Walk, a car raffle, a barn dance, and reunion of families with ancestors in our cemeteries. Jeanette Sherbondy will give a brief presentation on her research in genetic genealogy - the way in which our DNA is used to trace our origins to the earliest members of the human family.

Fall Community Events

Activities at Friendship United Methodist Church

Sunday, September 3 - Back Home Day. 3:30pm at the church on Upper Ferry Road. Guest speaker: Rev. Genevieve Brown.

Sunday, September 17 - Rainbow Rally. 3:30pm at the church. Guest speaker yet to be announced.

Sunday, Oct. 1 - Jones and Bounds Day. 3:30pm at the church. Guest speaker yet to be announced.

Sunday, Nov. 12 - Family and Friends Day. Members of the King and Waters family will be especially honored. 10:00am at the church.

Activities at Asbury United Methodist Church

Sunday, October 22 - 11:00am Annual Homecoming at Asbury United Methodist Church. Luncheon following the service, at the Allen Community Hall. The Passerdyke Cottage Museum will be open following the luncheon until 3:00pm.

Saturday, November 18 (date is tentative) - Fall Bazaar at the Allen Community Hall, 10:00am-2:00pm. Fried oysters, chicken salad sandwiches, hotdogs, soft drinks, homemade vegetable soup, lots of baked goods, plants, crafts, and white elephant items.

Allen Lions Club

Sunday, November 12 - Annual Pit Beef Dinner. 12:00 until ... The Allen Community Hall, Collins Wharf Road.

Other Events

The Pemberton Colonial Fair at Pemberton Park, Saturday, Sept. 23.

Old Princess Anne Days, October 21 and 22.

Update on Fundraising for Passerdyke Cottage and Treasurer's Report

Work on the ground floor of Passerdyke Cottage and on the garage was completed in June and we received approval from the Maryland Environmental Agency after the lead paint inspection. We ran into unexpected delays in rental due to problems with the air conditioning system, the repair of which was not completed until this month. Our new tenant will move into the apartment by September 1.

I would like to thank the members who responded so generously to our appeal for funds to defray the cost of repairs to the Cottage. We received over \$10,000 during our spring appeal! Because of these generous gifts, we are once again on a much sounder financial footing, despite the unexpected costs incurred in restoring the Cottage to a rentable state. We look forward to the day in the not too distant future when we can pay off the mortgage and use the entire facility as intended. As we look toward that day, however, we have to remember that we will have to build an endowment to maintain

the facility and until that happens, the need for annual fundraising will continue into the future. Our bank balance as of August 6 was \$10,338.35.

We hope that those of you who have not yet paid your dues for 2006 will renew your membership. We need your support! I would also like to urge those of our members who live in the area to attend our meetings each fall and spring. We would like to hear from as many of you as possible as we plan our activities and projects. Please consider writing an article for the newsletter as well. The editor needs your input! We would love to publish your reminiscences of Allen from the past, your memories of Allen "characters" , or material on genealogy and family history. The editor would also welcome any suggestions about what you would like to see appear in the newsletter.

Collins Wharf and the Community of Trinity

by George Shivers

The era of the steamboats on the rivers of the Eastern Shore had passed by the time I was born in 1943, but growing up I heard stories about them from my parents and older people in the community. I learned that at the end of the 19th century and in the early decades of the 20th century the steamboats provided one of the major means of transporting goods as well as passengers between the towns and villages of the Eastern Shore and the city of Baltimore. By the 1930's, however, they were being replaced by trucks and trains, and in the 1950's even passenger train service was no

more on the Eastern Shore. The Eastern Shore, like the rest of America, had become enamored of the private family car. The romance of the old ferry boats had become just a distant memory. I would like to thank Mr. Fred Moore, Sr., Mr. Jake Malone, Mr. Bryce Stump and Mrs. Deanna Eskridge for helping me to reconstruct a sense of the era when our river was not primarily a playground for pleasure boaters, but a major commercial corridor.

Growing up, I knew about Collins Wharf and that it was located on the Wicomico River at the farm owned by Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Moore when I was a child and now owned by their son Fred Moore. The landing is reached via what is now Yacht Club Road, which intersects Collins Wharf Road. Recently I decided to try to find out more about Collins Wharf, as well as the near by community known in the area as Trinity. What I learned is that the information available in the documents is very sketchy and much depends on the memories of those who have lived in the area.

Arlington R. and Olive E. Moore purchased the farm on which Collins Wharf was located on March 20, 1920 from Richard H. Hodson, a real estate agent (Wicomico County Records, Liber J.C.K. 117, f. 361). According to Deanna Eskridge, a descendant of James Azorine Collins and Elizabeth Susan Malone Collins, members of the Collins family were forced to sell the farm in bankruptcy proceedings due to heavy losses in their investment in the steamboat company, which purchased the riverfront wharf area from the Collins family in 1882 (phone conversation with Deanna Eskridge, July 19, 2006). James and Susan Collins had three children with very unusual names, all ending in the -ine that marked the last syllable of James Collins' middle name! The children were son Lamartine, and daughters Alexine (who married Samuel Insley and died in 1920), Josephine (who married a Bradley and was Deanna Eskridge's great-grandmother), and

Rurhine. The property is described in the deed as "located on both sides of the public road leading from the Allen Wharf to the county road at Perry Whayland's store, that leads there from to Allen." Further along in the deed we read, "Also a right-of-way over, through and by a road leading from the county road to said wharf property, referred to in a deed from James Collins and Elizabeth Susan Collins to the Maryland Steamboat Company on Feb. 13, 1882. That deed is found in Wicomico County Land Records, Liber S.P.T. 4, f. 374. The Collins at that time conveyed a parcel of land on the south side of Wicomico River to the Maryland Steamboat Company of Baltimore for use as a public landing. They also conveyed to the company a right-of-way "by their road leading from the county road to the said wharf property." We can thus date the beginning of steamboat service to Collins Wharf (also known as Allen Wharf) to 1882. Thus far I have not been able to discover when James and Elizabeth Collins purchased the property. I did, however, find land transactions in the Somerset County Court House in Princess Anne in which James Collins was involved in the 1850's, indicating that he was in the area by the middle of the 19th century. On June 15, 1857 William W. Disharoon and his wife, Cinderella sold land to James Collins for \$155. That property is described in the deed as bordering on the property of Samuel T. Bounds as well as that of Jacob Morris and Henry Dashiell (Somerset County Land Records, LW 5, f. 236). On July 30, 1857 Collins purchased property from Henry Dashiell for \$450. According to the deed, that property bordered on land already owned by Mr. Collins, purchased earlier by him from James Adams. The deed further states that it borders on William Whayland's land called Lowes Point. Further the property borders on Wicomico Creek and follows the creek bank until it joins the Wicomico River and continues along the river bank. The land had been known as Bottom-of-the-Creek as well as Lowes Point and part of it had been purchased by William Whayland from the

heirs of Henry Lowes (Somerset County Land Records, LW 5, f. 261). While neither of these properties seems to be the Collins Wharf property, the second property is clearly in the vicinity of it.

James A. Collins died in March, 1882, only a month after deeding the wharf on his farm to the Maryland Steamboat Company. He apparently left no will or at least I was unable to locate that document in the Wicomico County Register of Wills office. There was a record of his estate being opened on March 17, 1882 with his son Lamartine Collins serving as executor. Isaac I. Denson and Lemuel Malone are listed as "Names of Securities" in the documents. Return of inventory was April 5, 1882 at \$265.83. An order for sale was published and the returns of sale are listed on May 17, 1882 with the amount \$234.48 given in the record. In 1883 several deeds in Wicomico County Land Records involve his children and refer to them as his heirs, thus indicating a division of the property. I have not found a record of the death of James' wife, Elizabeth Susan. Since she is not mentioned in any of the deeds below, perhaps she had predeceased her husband. (The preceding information comes from the Wicomico County Will Index, 1867-1930.)

The property referred to above in the 1857 deed was sold on February 15, 1883 by James Collins' daughter Alexine to James B. Bradley for \$800. It is referred to in the deed as one-half of a tract of a tract of land called the Whayland farm at Lowes Point. An exception is made of the family graveyard (according to Deanna Eskridge, this graveyard can still be found on the Fred Moore farm and has grave stones for a number of members of the Whayland family. Fred Moore told her that he remembered there being other markers which have since disappeared. Mrs. Eskridge saw no evidence of Collins graves there.) (Wicomico County Land Records, Liber SPT 5, f. 333). Another document indicates that the Bradley's held the mortgage on the property sold to Alexine

Collins (Wicomico County Land Records, Liber SPT 5, f. 335).

On the same day, Feb. 15, 1883, Lamartine Collins and his wife Elizabeth sold tracts of the farm to his sisters, Alexine Collins and Josephine Collins Bradley, wife of James B. Bradley. This also is referred to in the deed as "Whayland land or Lowes Point." It also refers to the graveyard (Wicomico County Land Records, Liber SPT 5, f. 334). In a third deed of Feb. 15, 1883, Alexine Collins Bradley and her husband James, sold land to Lamartine Collins for \$200. It is referred to as that tract of land on which James Collins resided at the time of his death, "known as the Newman Farm, containing ninety acres of land." (Wicomico County Land Records, Liber SPT 5, f. 334)

At the time of the 1850 census James Collins was 34 years old, thus placing his birthdate at 1816. His wife Susan was 33 and thus born in 1817. At that time their son Lamartine was 1, placing his birth in 1849. Ten years later in 1860 daughters Alexine, Josephine and Rurhine had been born, the first in 1852, the second in 1854 and the third in 1856. By 1870 the youngest daughter Rurhine no longer appears in the census, indicating that she must have died during the preceding decade.

The reference in the 1920 deed to the store of Perry Whayland piqued my curiosity and I questioned Fred Moore about its location. Mr. Moore recalled that the store originally was on the corner of what is now Yacht Club Road and the road leading to the ferry landing. Later it was moved out to Collins Wharf Rd. across from Trinity Methodist Church beside the Perry Horseman house, now owned by Lee and Mary Agnes Fiddler. Mr. Horseman eventually tore the building down, according to Fred, and he moved into the house now owned by Mrs. Mary Lee Kolb, where he died. He had a daughter, Anne, who married Jim Sullivan, who, as it happened worked on the farm for my uncle Jay H. Shivers for many years and lived in what was at that time a tenant house and is now the restored Bound's Lott house! As

Mr. Moore recalls, the store was open in the early 20's when his parents moved there (1921). By the early 1930's the steamboats were no longer running and Mr. and Mrs. Moore purchased the wharf property.

Perry Whayland's store was part of a village that has come to be known as Trinity, perhaps named for the little Methodist Church that opened there in 1895. By the early 20th century there was a one-room schoolhouse there next to the church. The schoolhouse still stands, as a private residence. Mr. Jacob Malone recalls that his father, Frank E. Malone (1892-1968), attended school there, as did his older siblings, Slim, Howard (1917-1943) and Olive. Mr. Malone remembers attending school there with his older sister before he reached school age. Trinity School closed in 1931, so he entered first grade at the Allen School in 1936, only to have it close a year later in 1937, when students from the area were bused to Fruitland Elementary School. Mrs. Pauline Harrington, who lived in Allen for many years was born in Trinity in 1905. In an article written by Bryce Stump for the *Daily Times* (September 26, 1995), she recalled attending school in Trinity, called Collins Wharf School at the time: "When I was in the sixth and seventh grades, I was the only one in my class. I was at the head and foot of my class" (Stump, p. 6).

Mr. Lewis Alonza Whayland also had a store in Trinity for a number of years prior to 1917, when he opened a store in the nearby village of Allen. Mrs Harrington, L. A. Whayland's daughter, recalled for Bryce Stump: "Papa had a grocery store. Everybody called him L. A. Whayland - Lewis Alonza. People brought him chickens and eggs for trading. He would go to Salisbury to buy his groceries from the wholesale people. We had coal oil delivered by horse and wagon..." (Stump, 1995, p.6).

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church prospered for a time in the early 20th century and then closed for several years.

At that point, according to Jacob Malone, Luther and Mary Payne got the church going again, although he does not remember the date. Mr. Malone recalls that Mrs. Beatrice White (1907-2002), Mrs. Barbara Denson and Mrs. Olive Moore went to work painting and papering the sanctuary to make it ready for its reopening. By 1936, however, the congregation had declined once again to the point that the church folded. In her reminiscences with Bryce Stump about the church Mrs. Harrington recalled: "Everybody in the neighborhood went to Trinity (church), it was the only thing we had to do. My mother and father were members of Siloam Methodist Church. There was the Northern Methodist and down here was the Southern Methodist - during the Civil War we had two churches. In the morning we went to Siloam for services, and then to Trinity in the afternoon and Allen at night. I went to church too much. If I don't go to church anymore, I have seen enough,' she said laughing." (Stump, 1995, p. 6). Mrs. Lillian Phippin Malone, who died in 2003 at the age of 97 also remembered attending services at Trinity as a child and young woman. Her parents owned a farm on Collins Wharf Road. She used to talk about their going to services at Trinity during the day and then at night in Allen. After the church closed the property was purchased by John T. Phillips, who lived nearby. Members of the Phillips family are buried in the cemetery there. I recently visited the site and found the following marked graves:

Ethlyn Brigo Bailey, 1906-1974

Robert Howard Bailey, 1925-1941

James R. Phillips, Jan. 9, 1914 -June 19, 1975

Annie Madora Phillips, 1879-1955

Macy Madelene, dau. of John T. and Annie M. Phillips Jan. 4, 1902-Aug. 19,1908

Dortha, dau. of John T. and Annie M. Phillips Feb. 4, 1912-July 28, 1912

Polly J., dau. of John T. and Annie M. Phillips Feb. 28, 1921-Jan. 22, 1922

Frances V. Bounds, July 7, 1919-Oct. 9, 1919

Dorothy E. Bounds, Nov. 30, 1916-June 11-1922

The church building was still standing when I was growing up, though much deteriorated, and eventually it simply collapsed and was taken away. As I recall, it was a simple, rectangular, clapboard structure, once no doubt painted white with green shutters (though most of the paint had worn off by the 1950's when I remember it). It had simple lines, similar to those of Asbury in Allen, but without the steeple and choir loft, and was smaller in size. According to Jake Malone, members of the Phillips family still cut the grass on the small cemetery property. Now only a few bricks from the church foundation remain.

Another important part of life in the area of Collins Wharf and Trinity, when I was growing up, was the Redden Ferry. Remnants of the ferry landing can still be seen at the end of Redden Landing Road, however, the farmland has now sprouted a substantial residential community! Redden Ferry was one of four functioning ferries on the Wicomico River, the others being Upper Ferry, White Haven Ferry and Wetipquin Ferry. I recall crossing Redden Ferry many times as a child with my father, who used to take any tools that needed mending or blades that needed sharpening across the river to the shop of Mr. Wiles. It was always a hand-propelled ferry, pulled across the river on a cable, using wooden instruments. If these implements had a name, I never knew what it was, but I remember them very well! I haven't been able to discover when Redden Ferry closed. Mr. Jacob Malone recalls that after the county stopped maintaining it, local farmer

Joe Redden, who had farms on both sides of the river, kept it going for a while for his own convenience. Eventually, however, as recreational boating on the river increased, the cable was removed. An existing photograph of the ferry boat shows a car with a 1960 or 1961 tag, so we know that it was still going at the beginning of that decade. It is likely that it was no longer crossing the river by the 1970's.

In her interview with Bryce Stump in 1995, Mrs. Pauline Harrington mentioned another dock in the Trinity area, this one on the river near Bounds Lott. According to Mrs. Harrington, a small boat from White Haven stopped there everyday en route to Salisbury. Further, she stated, "Watermelons and tomatoes were shipped by bigger boats to markets from there. Many a time I've ridden on the gasoline boat. Papa had an old horse named Doctor and he would hitch Doctor up to the wagon and take country butter and eggs into Salisbury. He went down to the dock and after he unloaded he would turn the horse and wagon around and old Doctor would come home by himself..." (Stump, 1995, p. 6.)

Others of Mrs. Harrington's memories of her childhood in Trinity remind us that even as late as the first decades of the 20th century, the Civil War was fresh in the minds of many local residents, much as the Vietnam War is fresh in the memories of those of my generation. Mrs. Harrington speaks of her nanny, an African American woman, Adaline Bounds. She notes that Miss Bounds' mother may have been a slave in the area. Stump writes further in his article, "Apparently slaves who had taken the names of their owners remained here after the Civil War, working on farms they once tilled as slaves. In some cases, former slaves and their families became tenants and the bond between struggling farmers and blacks remained unbroken after the war, with each relying heavily on the other for survival. And as was so common, blacks lived with white families." (Stump, 1995, p. 6). Mrs. Harrington recalled that Adaline

never married and lived with her family. Her father paid her \$.75 a week, as well as giving her a home, food and clothing. "I was just a little girl and she was my nanny. I loved her just like I did my mother."(Stump, 1995,p. 6).

In a sense, Trinity has been reborn in recent years, with the building of many new homes in the area, including the Redden Ferry development. Additionally, the Wicomico Yacht Club has been in the area for many years. I doubt, however, that the newcomers to the area are even aware that a community called Trinity was once there and that commerce abounded on the nearby Wicomico River less than a century ago!

News from Trinity in the 1920's

Editor's Note: The following items appeared in the "Town & County" section of the Wicomico County News in 1922 under news from Trinity.

November 23, 1922

Mr. and Mrs. George Moore entertained at their home on Sunday afternoon: Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Newton, Mrs. Leslie Huffman, Mrs. Mary Simpkins and Mrs. Susan Thomas, mother of Mrs. Simpkins and daughter of Mrs. Samuel Taylor, all of Mt. Vernon.

Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Whayland spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Insley.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Insley had as their guests Thursday: Mr. and Mrs. Larry Culver, Mr. and Mrs. Graner Phippin, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Benedict and Mr. Calloway, all of Salisbury.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Cathell of Allen spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Malone.

Mr. Lee Byrd of Royal Oak spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kennie Denson.

Miss Louise Bounds of Salisbury spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Bounds.

Mrs. Florence Robertsoon, who has been confined to her bed for the past three months, is able to be out again.

Mr. George Moore, who is engaged in work at Deal's Island, spent Sunday at his home.

The Aid Society of this vicinity met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Handy A. Hamblin last Friday evening.

Mr. Frank Malone and son Howard spent Sunday with friends at Mt. Vernon.

Rev. Piserman, minister of our church, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Moore Friday afternoon.

There is a social at Collins Wharf School Friday evening, November 24. Everyone is invited.

November 30, 1922

Mr. and Mrs. Kennie Denson and family spent Sunday with relatives at Royal Oak.

Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Whayland had as their guests Sunday evening Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Insley and daughter Beatrice, and Mr. Perry Whayland and son Milton.

Carroll Brewington and Sewell Fields of Salisbury were the weekend guests of Roger and Roland Bounds.

Miss Lena Knowles, teacher of Brick Kiln School, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Smith Sunday.

Misses Madelyn and Ethel Whayland of Salisbury spent the weekend with their father, Mr. P.W. Whayland.

December 7, 1922

Mr. George Moore, who has been engaged in work at Deal's Island, returned to his home last Wednesday.

Misses Thelma Hamblin and Edna Whayland spent Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Andrew Smith of Allen.

Miss Edith Posey, teacher of Collins Wharf School, spent the Thanksgiving holidays with her parents at Salisbury.

Mr. Milton Whayland spent Thanksgiving with his mother at Salisbury.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Cathell spent Saturday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Phillips.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bounds and family and Mr. Ernest Bounds spent Sunday with relatives at Siloam.

Mr. Wilton Abbott and sister, Margaret, of Siloam, spent Thanksgiving with their aunt, Mrs. Archie Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. James Bounds and son of Salisbury spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Bounds.

Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Whayland entertained at their home on Sunday: Mr. and Mrs. Kennie Denson and family, Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Hamblin and family,

Mrs. George Moore, Mrs. Mary Bounds and grandchildren, Roger, Roland and Anna Bounds and Messrs. Claude and Victor Bounds and Mr. Willie Mills of Salisbury.

Miss Bernice Insley spent the weekend with relatives in Salisbury.

Mrs. Otis Waller and daughter Betty of Salisbury spent the weekend with her mother, Mrs. W.P. Insley.

JOIN THE ALLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.!

Membership Dues:

Individual: \$15

Family: \$20

Patron: \$35

Sustaining: \$250