

# THE ALLEN HISTORIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 31, Allen, MD 21810

Web Address: [allenhistoricalsociety.org](http://allenhistoricalsociety.org)

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VOLUME 14, NO. 2 August, 2008

George Shivers, Editor

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## Schedule of Events

Sunday, August 24, 2:00pm - Historical Society meeting in the Great Room of Asbury United Methodist Church.

Saturday, September 27 - Allen Historical Society Dinner and Cemetery Walk. Dinner begins at 5:00pm at the Allen Community Hall, Collins Wharf Rd. Cemetery Walk at Asbury and Friendship United Methodist Cemeteries beginning at 7:00pm. Transportation between Community Hall and both cemeteries provided.

Saturday, October 25 - Allen Historical Society Installation of charter members to our 1702 Honorary Society. Membership honors members of the Society for their commitment and longstanding service to the Historical Society and to community.

Sunday, October 26 - Annual Homecoming Service and luncheon at Asbury United Methodist Church. Service begins at 11:00am. Luncheon immediately following.

Saturday, November 15 - Drawing of the winning ticket of the Society's quilt raffle.

## Cemetery Walk

Our Society is sponsoring a cemetery walk on Saturday, September 27. The event will begin with a country supper,

served at the Allen Community Hall at 5:00pm. Guests will be taken in groups of 15 or 20 to Asbury Cemetery and then to Friendship Cemetery. At both locations docents will assume the identity of colorful citizens from Allen's past and talk about their lives. Those who are being presented at Asbury are Mary Whittington Allen, the village's first school teacher; Richard Porter, baseball player; Ashland Malone, electrician and general handy man of the early 20th century; Alexander P. Waller, farmer; and Laura Hitch, housewife, mother and respected hostess at Allendale Cottage.

At Friendship you will meet James Morris Polk, born into slavery, who in freedom became the patriarch of a large family, and his wife Caroline Rebecca Black; William Dennis and his wife Elizabeth Peters, both of whom were born into slavery on the plantation of Captain Thomas White; Thomas Elzey Polk, grandson of James Morris and Caroline Rebecca Polk, and Buffalo soldier; Rufus Fields, who donated the property for Friendship Church; and Mary Joyce, teacher.

We will sell 100 tickets for the event for \$15 each (supper and cemetery tour). Phone Melissa Bright (410-742-4085) or George Shivers (410-749-90-64) to make reservations. Please leave a message indicating how many tickets you want. We can hold them for you

until the event or mail them to you, if you provide us with an address.

### **Purchase of Eliza Pollitt Huffington House and Fundraising Campaign**

At our June meeting the Society voted unanimously to purchase the Eliza Pollitt Huffington property at its appraised value of \$70,000. We intend to restore the house, which was damaged by fire last year. It is being donated to us by the owners, Howard and Shirley Spielman. Mrs. Spielman is a descendant of the Pollitt family.

By the time you read this, you will have received a fundraising letter, which provides much information about the project, so I won't repeat it here. You may also refer to the March, 2008 newsletter for the history of James and Eliza Pollitt Huffington and the house.

This is a major project for us, but we believe that it represents well our commitment to our goals of preservation and education, and that the house will be a source of pride and utility to the Society and the community of Allen.

We hope that our members and friends will support the project with their customary generosity.

### **Quilt Raffle**

We are currently selling raffle tickets for a hand-made, queen-size quilt. The quilt was made by Mrs. Rebecca McElhone, who kindly donated her artistry to the Historical Society. Tickets are being sold at \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00. Contact Melissa Bright or George Shivers for tickets, or send check to our post office box. Be sure to include your return address, so that we can mail you the

raffle tickets. The winning ticket will be drawn on October 25.

### **The Village of Allen in the 1890s**

#### **Researched and Compiled by the Editor**

As we see from the item below, published in the *Salisbury Advertiser* on September 10, 1892, one of the major concerns in Allen at that time was the burgeoning population of school children in the community.

*Mr. Editor - If you will be kind enough to grant us sufficient space, we will once more call the attention of the School Board to the important fact that the school house at Allen is no longer large enough to accommodate the children of the neighborhood, nor has it been for several years. And furthermore, no one teacher, no matter what his or her qualifications and capacity for work may be, can do justice to the number of children that attend the school. We need here enlarged educational facilities. In a few words, we need a graded school and two teachers. Under present circumstances, the time of the teacher is consumed with the more advanced classes, and as an inevitable consequence the lower grades lack attention and make very slow progress. Governor Brown refused to immortalize himself by adding his signature to the free book bill, but we sincerely hope that the proper authorities will no longer ignore this honest and justifiable appeal for greater educational facilities.*

*It is much more economical to build school houses than penitentiaries, and a state that is able to appropriate large sums of money for many less important purposes, including a ridiculous and*

*absurd eel bill, should be able and willing to provide for the education of her children.*

### FAIR PLAY

The next year there had clearly been no positive outcome to the school situation in Allen, and the following article appeared in the *Salisbury Advertiser* on July 15, 1893.

I believe that Allen's resident medical doctor, Dr. John Long, was the author of the Allen columns during these years. That would explain the strong interest in health and hygiene expressed in this column.

*If you will grant us sufficient space, we will once more most respectfully call the attention of the school board to the antiquated, weather-beaten, and dilapidated condition of the school house here at Allen. This old coop called school house, in which our neighbor, Capt. Thos. Goslee, would not roost his chickens, has long been a standing reproach to the village, and it is time that something was done. It is too small, lacks proper ventilation, deficient in seating capacity, and is altogether unfit for the purpose, to say nothing about the general bad condition. The village has long since outgrown it in every sense, and the need of a larger school house must have been apparent to the most casual observer. We need a graded school and enlarged, educational facilities. No teacher, no matter what his or her system or qualifications, can possibly do justice to the number of children that attend this school.*

*Large school houses, and a plenty of them, or capacious and imposing penitentiaries, which shall it be? Which is the more credit to a state? We have*

*visited this old rookery here called school house, a patron, citizen, and physician, and we are prepared to sustain our charges.*

*In a little while we shall hear that it is too late to begin work, hence the importance of attending to the matter now. What are you going to do, parents and patrons? Remain indifferent and inactive now, and later on blow off your superfluous energy at a sorely tried, overtaxed teacher? We pity the teacher.*

*In conclusion, we want to say to the parents that the water that stands in a crowded and poorly ventilated school house in an open bucket in a few minutes becomes contaminated, and the longer it stands, the worse it gets. Teach your children this, and if your teacher is indifferent and ignores the matter, teach him or her too. Teach your children that it is better to refrain from drinking, though thirsty, than to pour such water into their stomachs.*

*The teacher whose rigid discipline renders it necessary for a child to drink such water, is much more deserving of censure than one who is a little indulgent in the matter of book lessons.*

*The habit of passing the water cup from lip to lip, as is done in the public schools, is another very objectionable practice, and the means of spreading much misery and wretchedness. This is a matter of grave importance and should receive some attention. The physical welfare of the child should receive attention, as well as the mental.*

*Godliness, as we understand the relation of man to the universal, stands first in importance. In the Latin phrase *mens sana in corpore sano* you will find that which stands pre-eminently second in*

*importance, if I may thus express it. The wealth of the nation consists in the health of the nation, and those in authority who are stingy in the matter of school appropriations are penny wise and pound foolish.*

*The children of today will be the men and women of tomorrow, and just such men and women as we make them. Their character and usefulness depend upon their training now. Then let us provide for their education. We are not all able to send our children away to the great institutions of learning, but we would like to have them secure at least a practical education. As to free scholarships, we have observed that the children, as a rule, whose parents are able to have them educated, secure them.*

*Allen, Md.*

*Patron*

Also in 1893 tragedy struck the community when a village landmark for over half a century, Mr. Joseph Stewart Cottman Allen's store, burned. Mr. Allen and his brother, William F. Allen, had operated the store for nearly a half-century and it was a major community center, as well as place of business. The Allen Cotillion Club held dances in the large room on the store's second floor and other organizations also met there. It was Joseph S.C. Allen who gave his family's name to the community in the previous decade, when the post office department requested a name change from Upper Trappe, given the number of "Trappes" on the Eastern Shore! The fire was reported in the *Salisbury Advertiser* on April 22, 1893, as follows:

*Early Thursday morning the store building and stock of goods of J.S. Allen,*

*Esq., Allen, this county, were destroyed by fire. Mr. Allen had gone to the store on arising and built a fire, and returned to his residence for breakfast. When he started back to the store after breakfast, he discovered fire burning through the roof of the building. Having no means of extinguishing the flames, the whole property was doomed.*

*The store was a large, two-story frame building, and it was well stocked with general merchandise. Nothing was saved. It is reported that Mr. Allen's loss is well covered by insurance.*

*No other property was burned, but at one time it was feared that the residence of Mr. Wm. F. Allen, a judge of the Orphans Court, would go. The roof caught fire once, but was saved by prompt action.*

There was also time for fun and entertainment in the village in the 1890's as we see in the following article, published in the *Advertiser* on August 5, 1893:

#### *Lawn Party at Allen*

*On Monday evening last a masquerade lawn party was held at the residence of Mr. John W. Jones of Allen. About 8:30 o'clock a very large crowd of masked ladies and gentlemen, dressed in fancy, curious, antique and antiquated costumes, assembled on the broad lawn which was brilliantly lighted. For a considerable portion of the evening the various games and pastimes incident to such occasions were freely indulged in till the appetite became pretty well whetted up, then all were invited to a long table well laden with ice cream, cake and other dainties and delicacies of the season.*

*On assembling at the table each individual threw off his or her mask, divulging the fact that many a one had been deceived and perhaps chagrined at the selection he had made, but all turned their attention to the good things that lay on the table before them and were soon happy and contented.*

*Besides the large number of ladies and gentlemen in and around Allen may be mentioned Miss Wheatley and Miss Holloway of Salisbury, Miss Cooksey and Miss Higgins of Baltimore, Miss Bennett and Miss Twiford of Sharptown, Miss Pollitt of Princess Anne, and Miss Horner of Mt. Vernon; Messrs. Newham of New York, Burnett White and Armstrong of Philadelphia, W.O. Bennett of Sharptown and others.*

Later in the decade we see that citizens of Allen were not untouched by national and international affairs. The writer of the Allen column in the *Advertiser* on March 19, 1898, was not happy with President McKinley's declaration of war on Spain. Some of his words will no doubt sound familiar to those concerned about our current war:

*Messrs. Editors: If you will be kind enough to grant us sufficient space to address a few desultory remarks to the Advertiser, we shall part our hair in the middle, wax our proud mustaches, stick our pen behind our expansive ear, and proceed to relieve ourselves of this weight and pressure of our ponderous thoughts. We would have said scintillating and ponderous, but didn't feel quite sure that our metaphysical readers would agree as to the association of the two qualities. Suppose we had steered clear of the difficulty by saying scintillating and*

*imponderable. Just think of scintillating and imponderable thoughts, while we shout, Eureka! But let us not fill allotted space with inharmonious trivialities. Other matters clamor for attention.*

*Naturally supposing that the great crime would be attributed to Spain and arouse the United States in arms against that country, with the recognition of the belligerency of Cuba, as one of the contingencies, if not certainties, we advance the theory that Cuba blew up the Maine.*

*We have never believed that Spain, officially, had anything to do with the destruction of the Maine and crew, or any knowledge of it. Such suggestions under the circumstances, we opine, would have encountered not only opposition, but condemnation. Spain's stupidity in such a course would have been truly marvelous. What was to be gained? Fostering a spirit of neutrality in the United States by Spain, it is obvious, was a much wiser policy than enkindling an inimical and hostile spirit.*

*And of those gentlemen who are able to buy substitutes, do not expect to smell powder, and are yet clamoring for war, we would ask, how much are you willing to contribute to the support of the widows and orphans of your glorious war.*

*And to those conspicuous patriots who would rejoice to see our country torn and bleeding, drained of treasure and blood, that they might have a chance to make a few dollars, we would say: There is a grander, and nobler work for man than multiplying dollars, and that the existence of a selfishness of such magnitude, in a civilized, cultured, and Christian land is one of the wonders of*

*the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Alas! The millennium is not yet.*

*Another egregious proposition runs to the effect that because of the destruction of the Maine, this government shall demand the independence of Cuba. Where is the logic of such propositions? What has the United States to do with the Cuban rebellion? Cuba belongs to Spain, and though we may sympathize with her in her struggles for freedom, we have no right to interfere. When Cuba says she has enough and Spain won't quit, why then . . .*

#### FAIRPLAY

#### **Reminiscences of Mrs. Mary Twilley Hartman**

Someone who grew up in the 1880s and 1890s was Mrs. Mary Hartman or "Cousin Maie," as she was known to my family, when I was growing up. She was born in Allen on July 12, 1882, the only child of William James Twilley, a Methodist pastor, and Mary Augusta Stiles Schillenger. Her parents were married on September 23, 1881. Mary Twilley married James Hartman and lived on the Eastern Shore of Virginia for most of her adult life. She and her husband had five children, Mary Augusta, Sarah Leigh, James Henry, John Darrell, and William Stanley.

On October 4, 1967, when she was 85 years old, Mrs. Hartman wrote the following letter of reminiscences of Allen to my mother, Lillian Shivers. She was a resident in the Methodist Home in Onancock on the Eastern Shore of Virginia at the time.

*Dear Lillian,*

*I will not be able to go "home" for dinner and church service this year and, I suspect, never again.*

*Have been hoping to see you, Helen (Editor's Note: Helen Porter, another cousin), or some one from there, and still hope you can make the trip down to see me.*

*I saw the article in the paper about Lulu retiring (Editor's Note: Miss Lulu Nichols, who had recently retired as postmaster of Allen after serving twenty years in that post.) She has had the Post Office for quite some time. I remember when Mr. Sim Malone was Post Master, the Post Office was just about in the same place.*

*I also remember when Mr. Joe Allen had it in his store, in about the place your store was. That does not make us old, just a memory of Home Sweet Home. Lyn Allen was quite a "young" gentleman then.*

*I remember when Mr. Joe Allen had the Post Office in the front room of his home, the room on the "Salisbury side." I also remember the first church (or did they call it "meeting house") in Allen. My grandfather bought it (Editor's Note: Caleb Twilley, who built the sanctuary of the church in 1848), moved it from where the church is, and had a country store and post office. I have been told that was the first post office in Allen. Of course, there was only the counters and boxes in the store, as I remember it, but I have hidden in there many times when Ethel, Twilley and I were playing "hide and seek." (Editor's Note: The reference is to Mrs. Hartman's cousins, Ethel and Twilley Malone.) They never caught me for they were afraid to go in there.*

*Take care of yourself, don't work too hard, and give my love to Wilson and your family.*

*Love,  
Cousin Maie*

### **Genealogy of Anthony S. Pollitt**

**by Roy C. Pollitt**

This is a short article regarding some genealogical information about my great-great uncle, Anthony S. Pollitt. As I was growing up the elders in my branch of the Pollitt family never talked to me about Anthony though I am sure that his existence was known to at least four or five of them. I am descended from Anthony's brother, Lewis Asbury Pollitt (1840-1913)(also spelled "Louis"). My grandfather, Carlisle Warren Pollitt (1867-1943) was born in Allen MD, and my father, Alton Fisher Pollitt (1915-1982) was born in Laurel DE.

The Lewis Pollitt (1807-1882) cited in this article, the father of both Anthony S. Pollitt and my great-great grandfather, Lewis Asbury Pollitt, was the son of Stephen Pollitt (c.1756-1827), grandson of Jonathan Pollitt (1722-1806), great-grandson of Thomas Pollitt (1690-1743/44) and great-great-grandson of Thomas Pollitt (c.1640-1708).

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I welcome any corrections, additions, criticisms, etc. to KT3TV@arrl.net or Roy C. Pollitt, 5601

Duncan Road (#118), Punta Gorda FL 33982-4756. Telephone (941) 505-1498.

Anthony S. Pollitt

Born: 28 Mar 1833 in Eden MD  
Died: 18 Jun 1905 in Allen MD  
Buried: Allen MD (Allen Methodist Church)

Father: Lewis Pollitt #1097  
Mother: Leah J. Mitchell #1098

Wife of Anthony #1: Henrietta Huffington

Married: 15 Jan 1856 in Somerset County, MD

Born: c. 15 Jan 1836

Died: 7 Jul 1867

Buried: Allen MD (Allen Methodist Church)

Father: Jonathan Huffington  
Mother: Henrietta (Hetty) Adams

Child 1: Eleanor Freeney Pollitt

Born: 15 Nov 1856

Died: (?)

Spouse: John H. Goslee

born March 1845

Married: c. 1879

Child 2: Williamanna H. Pollitt

Born: 8 Aug 1858

Died: 17 Dec 1921

Buried: 19 Dec 1921 in Allen MD (Allen Methodist Church) Spouse:

Samuel C. Twilley

Born: 14 Feb 1849

Died: 22 Sept 1922

Married: 27 Jan 1881 in Wicomico County MD

Child 3: Esther A.W. Pollitt

Born: 8 Aug 1859

Died: (?)

Child 4: Sarah J. Pollitt  
Born: c. 1861

Buried: in Salisbury MD (Parsons  
Cemetery)

Child 5: Marion S. Pollitt  
Born: 15 Sep 1862  
Died: 30 Jan 1882  
Buried: Allen MD (Allen Methodist  
Church)

Child 2: Frederick A. Pollitt Born: 31 Jul  
1871 in Quantico MD  
Died: 7 Mar 1936 in Salisbury MD

Buried: 9 Mar 1936 in Parsons  
Cemetery - Salisbury MD  
Interred: Section One - Number 675  
Spouse: Elizabeth M. Weir  
Born: 25 Dec 1884  
Died: 27 June 1974  
Married: 25 Dec 1912 in Salisbury MD

Child 6: Annie Laurie Pollitt  
Born: 27 May 1865  
Died: 24 April 194  
Buried: Allen MD (Allen Methodist  
Church)

Child 3: Andrew Louis Pollitt  
Born: Jan 1874  
Died: (?)  
Buried: (?)

Spouse (1): Alexander Vaughn Waller  
Born: 21 March 1847  
Died: 15 Jan 1918  
Married: (?)

Spouse (2): Elias H. Nichols  
Born: 1862  
Died: 1964  
Married: (?)

Child 4: Isaac Pollitt  
Born: c. 1876  
Died: by 1900 Census  
Buried: on Perry Anderson farm -  
Salisbury MD

Child 7: Lafayette R. Pollitt  
Born: 30 Jun 1867  
Died: 12 Aug 1867  
Buried: Allen MD (Allen Methodist  
Church)

Father of Anthony S. Pollitt:  
Lewis Pollitt  
Born: 20 Apr 1807 in Maryland  
Died: 8 Nov 1882  
Buried: in Fruitland MD (St.John's  
Methodist)  
Father: Stephen Pollitt  
Mother: (unknown)

Wife of Anthony #2: Mary Virginia  
Anderson  
Married: 11 March 1868 in Wicomico  
Co MD  
Divorced: by 1900 Census  
Born: Feb 1839  
Died: (?)  
Buried: on Perry Anderson farm -  
Salisbury MD  
Father: Andrew Wilmer Anderson  
Mother: Elizabeth C. Fletcher

Wife of Lewis Pollitt #1: Leah J.  
Mitchell  
Married: 23 Mar 1830 in Worcester  
County, MD  
Born: 10 Aug 1809 in Maryland  
Died: 30 Oct 1863  
Buried: in Fruitland MD (St.John's  
Methodist)  
Father: (unknown)  
Mother: (unknown)

Child 1: Wilmore H. Pollitt  
Born: Sep 1870  
Died: c. 1943-44

Child 1: Anthony S. Pollitt

Child 2: Catherine A. Pollitt (sister of Anthony S. Pollitt)  
Born: Aug 1837  
Died: 18 Jan 1919  
Buried: in Salisbury MD (Parsons Cemetery)  
Spouse: Alexander Porter Malone  
Born: 21 March 1825  
Died: 29 Oct 1908  
Married: 25 Aug 1864  
Will of CATHERINE A. POLLITT:  
Wicomico County MD Liber JWD 1  
(Wills) - Folios 262-263  
Drawn - 24 Dec 1918  
Probated - 30 Jan 1919

Child 3: Mary E. Pollitt (sister of Anthony S. Pollitt)  
Born: 28 Apr 1837  
Died: 15 April 1905  
Buried: in Tyaskin MD (Tyaskin Methodist Church)  
Spouse: Henry Thomas Toadvine  
Born: 29 Nov 1826  
Died: 20 Feb 1878  
Married: 2 Jun 1852 in Worcester County MD  
Will of Mary E. Pollitt (Toadvine):  
Wicomico County MD  
Liber LJG1 (Wills) - Folios 125-126  
Drawn - 11 March 1903  
Probated - 5 May 1905

Child 4: Louis Asbury Pollitt (brother of Anthony S. Pollitt)  
Born: 31 May 1840  
Died: 8 May 1913  
Buried: in Laurel DE (Laurel Hill Cemetery)  
Spouse: Martha Jane Williams  
Born: 25 Jun 1844  
Died: 8 Mar 1907  
Married: 6 Nov 1865 in Somerset County MD

Wife of Lewis Pollitt #2: Mary Ann Taylor  
Married: 9 Jun 1864 in Worcester County MD  
Born: 1819  
Died: 1889  
Buried: in Fruitland MD (St. John's Methodist)  
Father: (unknown)  
Mother: (unknown)

**The Allen Historical Society welcomes new members! Annual dues are:**

**Individual: \$15.00**  
**Family: \$20.00**  
**Patron: \$40.00**  
**Sustaining Member: \$250.00**

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