

# 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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George Shivers, Editor

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## Community Calendar

Homecoming Service and Luncheon, Asbury United Methodist Church, Allen, Sunday, September 21, 11:00am.

Fall Bazaar, Asbury United Methodist Church, Allen Community Hall, Oct. 18, 9:00am - 2:00pm.

Allen Lions Club Pit Beef Dinner, Allen Community Hall, Sunday, Nov. 9.

Allen Historical Society Country Breakfast, Sat., Dec. 6 at the Allen Community Hall, 7:00am-10:00am. Pancakes, sausage, scrapple, fruit.

## Nabb Research Center Events

"Mapping Delmarva's Past," an exhibit featuring the map collection of the Nabb Research Center. Opening reception on Monday, Sept. 8, 7:00pm. Exhibit open Mon., Wed. & Fri. from 1:00-4:00pm from Aug. 25 through Dec. 12.

"Delmarvans at War: The Civil War," an exhibit at the Nabb Gallery from Aug. 25 through Dec. 12. Hours same as above.

"This Is My Story; This Is My Song," the inaugural lecture from the Rev. Frost Pollitt Memorial Endowment by David W. Brown, author of *Freedom Drawn from Within: A History of the Delaware Annual Conference*. Brown will discuss the history of the Conference for African-American Methodist Churches in the Mid-Atlantic States, founded in 1864. (*Editor's Note: Friendship United Methodist Church in Allen was founded in the same year and*

*became part of the Delaware Annual Conference.*) The lecture will take place in the Wicomico Room of the Guerrieri Center, Salisbury University at 7:00pm on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Maryland Emancipation Day Celebration Performance, Charles H. Chipman Cultural Center, 323 Broad St., Salisbury, 7:00pm, Saturday, November 1. A musical performance by the Society for the Preservation of African-American Arts Singers. The Chipman Center was formerly John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church. Built in 1838, it is the oldest standing African-American church on Delmarva. (*Editor's Note: See article on Maryland's emancipation of slaves in this volume.*)

## In Memoriam

**Mary Aline Banks**  
(Nov. 9, 1923 - Nov. 7, 2013)



Better known to our community as Aline Banks, she was the wife of AHS member Russell Banks. As a young couple they lived in Allen in the small cottage on the hill, next door to Carroll Lentz's home. At that time the Lentz home was owned by Russell's parents, Oliver O. Banks and Laura Huffington Banks.

Aline was born in Mt. Vernon, the daughter of Albert and Viva Grace Cole Bounds. She met her husband while skating on the Allen Pond. She loved playing the piano, which she played by ear. She also loved animals, especially her dog Treena. She and her husband had been married for 72 years.

She is survived by her husband, Russell, by three children, Russell G. Banks and his wife, Chulaporn, of Clermont, FL; Patricia Banks of Quincy, FL; and Susan Baysinger of Salisbury; and by grandchildren, Nicole Sener of Chester, MD and Cory Baysinger and his wife, Traci, of Laredo, TX; and by a great-granddaughter, Brooklyn Baysinger of Laredo, TX.

A graveside service was held on Monday, Nov. 11, 2013 at Wicomico Memorial Park in Salisbury.

**Bettie Sue Payne Malone  
(Aug. 8, 1930 - May 2, 2014)**



Bettie Sue was the daughter of Luther E. and Mary Griffith Payne. She married John (Jack) Alonza Malone, an architect, on September 23, 1950. During the early years of their marriage they lived in a house on the Payne farm near Allen, but later moved to a house designed by her husband on Schumaker Pond in Salisbury, where she lived at the time of her death. Her husband died in 1999.

Bettie Sue was a charter member of the Allen Historical Society and participated in all our activities for as long as health permitted. She was also a lifetime member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Allen and of the United Methodist Women.

She was also a lifetime active member of the Town and Country Garden Club.

Bettie Sue loved to knit and crochet and was a gifted artist with the needles. She contributed many of her creations for sale at the bazaars held twice each year by Asbury-Allen UM Church. She also loved to cook and was equally gifted in that area, often creating delicious meals from around the world. She will always be remembered for her Maryland beaten biscuits, a talent she no doubt inherited from her Mother, Mary G. Payne, who pounded the dough well into her 9th decade!

Bettie Sue is survived by her sons, Roscoe Malone and his wife, Beth; Gregory L. Malone and his wife, Jacqueline; and Stuart A. Malone and his wife, Catherine E. White; grandchildren, Molly C. Malone and Luther D. Malone; and sister, Doris Lee Fretz.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, May 6 at Asbury United Methodist Church in Allen, with the Rev. Lisa Jordan officiating. Burial was in Allen Cemetery.

**Pauline Ent Nichols  
(Feb. 21, 1918 - April 23, 2014)**



Pauline Nichols was born in Somerset County, a daughter of Joseph Ent and Libby Kirwan Ent. She married the late Douglas D. Nichols of Allen on Sept. 2, 1938. Douglas died in 2007. They were residents of Allen throughout their marriage.

"Miss Pauline, " as she was known to friends and neighbors, was a member of Asbury-Allen United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Women, and the Eastern Shore Region Antique Car Club. Although she never joined the Allen

Historical Society, she supported our activities, and we might well consider her to have been an honorary member because of her many contributions to the community of Allen. She was proud of her home and yard, and until shortly before death could be seen riding her lawn mower cutting the grass on her large property.

She is survived by two daughters, Patricia Bounds of Salisbury and Deborah Kreiser and her husband, Tom, of Mardela; six grandchildren, Roger David Bounds, Stephen Eric Bounds, Rodney Allen Bounds, Michael Douglas Kreiser, Justin Thomas Kreiser and Kendall Ballard Kreiser; eight great-grandchildren; two sisters, Tealie Watson and Anne Mae Smith, both of Salisbury; as well as several nieces and nephews and many dear friends and neighbors. Late brothers and sisters were Porter Ent, James Ent, Sarah Revell, John Ent, Dizzy Ent, and her twin sister, Josephine Tingle.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, April 29 at the Hinman Funeral Home in Princess Anne with the Rev. Lisa Jordan officiating. Burial was in the Allen cemetery.

**Jane T. Pollitt**  
**(March 4, 1923 - March 22, 2014)**



Jane Pollitt was born in Melfa, VA, the daughter of Maxwell and Wanda Bull Turner. She graduated from Chevy Chase High School and went on to attend business school before starting a family with her first husband, Emmett G. Taylor, Jr. She lived on the Eastern Shore of Virginia for many years, raised a family and owned an antique shop in Temperanceville. She enjoyed

traveling to purchase items for her shop. In addition to collecting antiques, she enjoyed history, archaeology, gardening and cultivating bonsai trees. She was a member of several garden clubs and historical societies, including the Allen Historical Society. She married Richard M. (Dick) Pollitt on August 2, 1975. After his retirement as judge, they made their home in Williamsburg, VA. He died on Dec. 17, 1992.

Jane is survived by children Suzanne Taylor Alexander, Salisbury, Maryland; William M. Taylor and his wife Liza, Culver City, California; Thomas W. Taylor and his wife Jean of Temperanceville, Virginia; Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. and his wife Tracy of Allen, Maryland; Susan P. Knowles and her husband Frank of West Chester, Pennsylvania; eight grandchildren: Kimberley Leverage, Jennifer Campbell, Christopher Taylor, Edward Taylor, Thomas Taylor, Jr., Rick Knowles, Lainie Knowles, Ricky Pollitt, and Rachel Pollitt; and six great-grandchildren Ian, Ainsley, Finian, Meredith, Tristan, and Frankie; and several nieces and nephews.

**Contributions to the Archive by the  
Family of the late Bettie Sue Malone**

Roscoe, Greg and Stuart Malone have presented to the Society a large number of photographs and documents collected by their mother over the years. These items represent a significant contribution to our knowledge of the history of the village, and we are grateful to the family for making them available to us. Included in the collection are portraits of Rounds Truitt Payne (1834-1913) and his wife Elizabeth Hancock Payne (1843 - 1930). Although they lived their entire lives in Worcester County and are buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Pocomoke City, the Paynes through their children are closely connected to our village. Their son the late Burlie Lee Payne (1875-1936) was the father of Luther Payne and Oneita Cooper Payne and the grandfather of AHS members Doris Fretz

and Harry Cooper. His portrait is also included in the collection we received. A daughter, Lula F. Payne Shivers (1872 - 1949), was the grandmother of AHS members John Shivers, George Shivers and Emma Shivers. Another son, Elihu Grice Payne (1878-1954) was the grandfather of AHS member Franklin Cooper.



**Rounds T. Payne**



**Elizabeth H. Payne**



**Burlie L. Payne**



**Jay H. and Lula Payne Shivers**  
(Photo belonging to George Shivers)



**Elihu Grice Payne**  
(Photo belonging to George Shivers)

Other items in what we can call the "Bettie Sue Malone Collection" include photographs of the late William Twilley Malone and his first wife, Beatrice; several copies of a photograph of teachers and students at the Allen School in the early 20th century; an early photo of the Payne home on Wicomico Creek; photos of the late Dr. Roscoe Jones as well as a notebook with some of his sermon notes; a tablet with Circle meeting minutes from 1936; a number of Asbury Homecoming Church bulletins; a manuscript genealogy of the Porter family compiled by Wade T. Porter in 1962; a Salisbury High School commencement program dated May 12, 1892; a genealogy of the William J. Jones family written by his great-granddaughter, Minnie Murrell McGrath in 1949; a copy of the will of George Phoebus, dated 28 Nov, 1744; a small diary of Kate Price, daughter of "Squire" Levin Price and wife of Dr. Roscoes Jones, written in Allen in 1896; and this, by no means, covers the entire collection.

The Circle minutes mentioned above list the following members of the Circle in 1937:

- Laura Banks
- Ruth Banks
- Gwendolyn Bounds
- Nan Cooper
- Louise Elzey
- Josephine Howell
- Ethel Malone
- Mary Malone
- Drucy Martin
- Reetta Wendt

Mamie Messick  
Agnes Pollitt  
Rose Shivers  
Alice Smith  
Beulah Stout  
Mildred Whayland  
Pauline Whayland

Drucy Martin and Reetta Wendt were sisters who lived in what we now call the Huffington-Pollitt house!

I have scanned two interesting little documents, as the originals are very old and very fragile. One of the documents is a record of a debt owed by Thomas Disharoon to William Gunby in the amount of \$1.96, \$.21 of which was interest for two years! The year was 1866. The second document is a summons to Mr. Disharoon by Mr. B.F. Messick of Allen, who was apparently serving as constable. I include as much of the text of the summons as I was able to decipher:

State of Maryland, Somerset County, to wit to B. F. Messick, presiding constable of said County, greetings. You are hereby commanded to summon Thomas Disharoon, if he shall be found in your ? to appear before ? the subscriber or some other Justice of the Peace of the County and State aforesaid on the 24th day of Feb. 1866 at ? o'clock PM to answer unto William Gunby in a plea of debt. . . (illegible section follows.) Witnessed by hand and seal this 7th day of Feb. 1866.  
Levin B. Price  
(Seal)

### **2014 Annual Meeting of the Allen Historical Society**

We held our meeting on Sunday, June 1 at the Cactus Taverna in Salisbury. The speaker was Elizabeth Beckley, a resident of Millington, Kent County, and Field Director of Preservation Maryland on the Eastern Shore. She was accompanied by Cherilyn Widell, who also contributed to the presentation. Ms. Beckley presented an

overview of Preservation Maryland and its mission. She then spoke about the value of establishing a local historic district for the village of Allen. The advantages of such a district include not only greater ability to preserve our architecture, but also Maryland tax credits to owners of historic properties within the district for the restoration and preservation of their homes. Ms. Beckley indicated that we are fortunate to be in Wicomico County, since it is one of the counties that has its own Historic District Commission that would guide us through the procedure. Both women had walked through the village earlier in the day along with George Shivers. They spoke eloquently of their impressions of the village's historic core, emphasizing its architectural integrity. They encouraged our Society to pursue the formation of a local historic district and offered their advice and support should we do so.

### **Maryland's Emancipation Day**

When President Abraham Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, it applied only to those states then in rebellion against the federal government, thus enabling Union troops to free the slaves in areas of the south as they came under federal military control. Congress had freed the slaves in the District of Columbia a year earlier in 1862. Maryland's governor at the beginning of the Civil War was Thomas H. Hicks, who was a slaveholder, but also a strong supporter of the Union. Hicks's successor was Augustus Bradford. A politically expedient agreement was reached, whereby they would ensure that Maryland remained in the Union and Lincoln, at least temporarily, would look the other way on the matter of slavery.

At the outset of the War Maryland had 87,000 slaves. By the summer of 1864 the Maryland legislature was debating a new constitution for the state. That constitution included the abolition of slavery. The legislature did approve the constitution and submitted it to popular referendum. The pro-

slavery forces were ahead until the absentee ballots of Union soldiers were counted. At that point the new constitution passed. The final count was 30,174 in favor of freeing the slaves and 29,799 against. Thus, on November 1, 1864, Maryland's slaves were declared free, just a few months before the federal Congress passed the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery throughout the country.

(The information above is taken from an article by Miranda Spivack in the *Washington Post* on September 13, 2013.)

What was the state of slavery in the Allen area (then Upper Trappe) in the mid-19th century? Two of the largest slaveholders in the area of the village in 1850 were Joseph S. Cottman, of the Motherton Plantation (remembered in Cottman Road today) and Jonathan Huffington, Jr., whose plantation bordered both sides of Collins Wharf Road. Cottman held 36 male slaves in that year, ranging in age from one year to 80, and 23 female slaves, ranging in age from one year to 70! Somerset County records show that he freed his slave Simon Crucifer Cottman on April 23. On February 10, 1863 he freed another slave, Jacob Cottman, described as 5'5" tall, light chestnut complexion and 62 years of age. I do not have statistics for 1860 in the case of Joseph S. Cottman.

In 1860 Jonathan Huffington, Jr. and his sons, William, James and Jesse together owned 26 slaves, seven females and 19 males, ranging in age from one year to 71. There were also two free African Americans in the father's household, Jacob Cottman, described as age 52, and Asbury Dashiell, age 10. Is it purely coincidental or could this Jacob Cottman be the same man freed by Joseph S. Cottman ten years earlier? The ages do not correspond, but census takers often made errors of that kind. James Huffington had four free African Americans in his household: William, Seth, Andrew and Eliza Bayley. The number of slaves in the Huffington family had been increasing

throughout the 19th century, with none indicated in the 1820 census, 15 in 1840.

Jonathan Huffington died in 1862, and only one slave is mentioned in his will: one Negro (no name given) bequeathed to son James. The will specified that at the death of James the slave was to go to his youngest son Jesse. James died in 1891, long after emancipation. We are left to wonder about the other 25 slaves Jonathan Huffington owned two years before his death, yet not mentioned in his will. More research is needed to determine whether he had manumitted those slaves prior to his death.

Other Trappe District slave owners in 1860 were:

Elizabeth Disharoon - 1 female slave, age 70  
Mary Allen - 2 female slaves, ages 40 and 6  
Eleanor Drura - 2 female slaves, ages 26 and 3  
Jacob Morris - 4 male slaves and 5 female slaves, ages from 2 to 80  
Henry E. Harcum - 1 male slave, age 35; 1 female slave, age 15

Upper Trappe farmer William W. Disharoon held two slaves in 1860. Village storekeeper Stephen Drura died in 1859. In his will he left to his wife Ellen "my Negro woman Rose . . ." (See above.)

In 1860 the slave census figures for the Trappe District record that thirty-five heads of families owned slaves. This number represents a 50 percent reduction from the number of slaveholders ten years earlier. In 1860 slave ownership was as follows:

28 owners held fewer than five slaves.  
4 owners held six to ten slaves.  
1 owner with sixteen to twenty slaves  
1 owner with twenty to thirty slaves  
1 owner with thirty to forty slaves

Thus, we see a steady decline in slave ownership in the Allen area up to the 1864 emancipation of all slaves. At the same time the free African American population in the

village was growing between 1830 and 1864, largely along what is now the Upper Ferry Road. The 1860 Census for the Allen area (Trappe District) lists the following free African American households (head of household listed first):

James H. Sanders  
Georgia Waters - age 14  
Robert Waters - age 10  
Julia Brereton - age 23

William Bayley - age 23; laborer  
Seth Bayley - age 20; laborer  
Andrew Bayley - age 14  
Eliza Bayley - age 16  
(The above were in the household of James Huffington.)



James Huffington

Harriet Graham - age 12 (in the household of Wm. W. Disharoon)

Leah - age 25; servant  
Leah - age 5  
Sarah - age 2  
(in the household of Joseph S. Cottman)

Mary Jones - age 30; laundress  
William - age 8  
Sarah - age 6  
Susan - age 4  
Marcellus - age 2

Jacob Cottman - age 52  
Asbury Dashiell - age 10  
(in the household of Jonathan Huffington)

William Clark - age 7  
Alexander Clark - age 12  
Richard Sewell - age 19  
(in the household of Jacob Morriss)

Warren Weighs - age 15  
Joseph Weighs - age 4  
(in the household of Wm. J. Whayland)

Thomas Brown - age 30; farm laborer  
Miloka - age 30  
Benjamin - age 10  
Joshua - age 3  
John Fooks - age 20  
Early Dutton - age 50

Priscilla Toadvine - age 50  
(in the household of James Acworth)

Levin Black - age 30; laborer  
Margaret - age 25  
Edward - age 5  
Mary J. - age 1  
James - age 1

Jesse Waters - age 42; laborer  
Betsy - age 27  
Thomas - age 8  
Catherine - age 6  
Virginia - age 1 month

Henry Bayley - age 50; laborer  
Polly - age 50  
Gillis - age 24  
Harriet Fooks - age 47  
John - age 10

Charlotte Whitney - age 40; laundress  
William - age 23  
Seth - age 20  
Sarah - age 18  
Leah I. - age 13  
Mary E. - age 11  
Frank - age 7

Henry Dennis - age 31; laborer  
Susan - age 30; laundress  
William J. - age 19  
James - age 11  
Eliza - age 11  
Sarah E. - age 8

David Bayley - age 46; laborer  
Sarah - age 26

Daniel Ballard - age 34; laborer

Rosa - age 26; laborer

Morris Polk - age 60; laborer

Rebecca - age 30; laborer

Mary - age 6

Rebecca - age 4

Morris - age 2

Henry Whayland - age 55; laborer

Harriet - age 38

Georgianna - age 16

Robert - age 12

Hannah - age 8

Levin - age 6

Leah Peters - age 50; laundress

Henry - age 23; laborer

John - age 18

George - age 16

Andrew - age 14

Samuel Tull - age 23; laborer

Sarah M. - age 16

Dennis McGrath - age 30; laborer

Matilda - age 25

George - age 7

John - age 5

Infant - age 4 months

Jesse Purnell - age 50; mariner

Henrietta - age 40

Nancy - age 22

William - age 21

John - age 18

Hester - age 15

Matilda - age 13

Charles - age 3

Nancy Roach - age 80

Henry Collins - age 40; farmer

Nancy - age 46

John W. - age 12

Mary - age 9

Jane - age 6

Susan E. - age 9

Levin Dutton - age 30; laborer

Sarah - age 25

Stephen Salisbury - age 60; mariner

Isaac - age 3

Hetty Fitzgerald - age 60

John Black - age 36; mariner

Eliza - age 25

Anthony - age 12

Mary A. - age 9

Martha - age 5

George Dutton - age 35; farmer

Hezziah - age 30

George - age 14

Levin - age 10

Mary E. - age 8

Martha - age 6

Hezziah - age 5

Jane - age 4

Elisha - age 1

George Brereton - age 28

Martha - age 18

John Brereton - age 27; laborer

Hezziah - age 20

Henry H. - age 2

Rufus Fields - age 49; farmer

Elizabeth - age 20

Henry W. - age 22

Elijah - age 16

Henrietta - age 13

Susan - age 11

Philby W. - age 8

Nancy - age 3

Levin F. - age 2

Charles Jones - age 33; laborer

Mary - age 25

Mary - age 7

James - age 5

Infant - age 6 months

David Furnace - age 60; laborer

Ruth - age 56

Moses - age 30; laborer

Name illegible - age 27; laborer

Stephen - age 25; laborer

Hezziah - age 16; laborer

David - age 21; laborer

Matilda - age 14

Easter - age 12

**Some Records of the Virginia Annual Conference Pertaining to Churches in the Allen Area**

**1918** - Rev. A.L. Stevenson was appointed to serve at Asbury, Rev. W. J. Twilley, retired in residence. *(Editor's Note: William James Twilley was a son of Caleb Twilley, who had built Asbury Church in 1848, and of Hester Ann Huffington, a daughter of Jonathan Huffington, Jr. W.J. Twilley was born on July 23, 1852 and died in Allen January 8, 1923. He was residing at what had been the home of Mary Whittington Allen (Whittington Hall) at the time of his death. He was born and grew up in the house which once stood on the corner opposite the church. The house had also been built by his father. It burned in 1970.)*

Sunday School superintendents in 1918 were E.D. Bosman at Eden, Roscoe Jones at Allen and John Huffington at Trinity (Collins Wharf Road). Four persons joined the church, eight members died during the year, ten children were baptized. Membership was 336. The value of building was \$6,000 and the parsonage \$1,500. The pastor's salary was \$1,000.



**Roscoe Jones**



**John Huffington**

**1920** - Rev. F. R. Holland was appointed pastor at Asbury. 28 persons joined the church. There were 13 deaths. Total membership was 341. 8 adults and 9 infants were baptized. The building was valued at \$10,000 and the parsonage at \$1,500. There was no increase in the pastor's salary.

**1922** - The Sunday School superintendent in Asbury was W. Twilley Malone. The building was insured for \$3,500 and the premium was \$36 per year. There were 285 members. The pastor's salary still had not increased!



**W. Twilley Malone**

**1925** - Rev. Roy Moore was appointed to serve at Asbury. The Sunday School superintendent was Elisha M. Nichols at Allen. Five persons joined the church; two were removed by death. Total membership was 343. The church was valued at \$10,000. The value of the parsonage had now been increased to \$2,500. The amount of insurance carried had also been increased to \$10,300. The premium was \$40 per year. We finally see an increase in the pastor's salary to \$1,200! The total amount of money raised for all purposes was \$3,971, with the average per member being \$11.62.



**Elisha Morris Nichols**

### **Sickness Could Be Deadly Early This Century**

by W. E. Wilkins

*Editor's Note: W.E. Wilkins was the grandson of Dr. Roscoe Jones. Dr. Jones grew up in Allen on the property that now belongs to Arthur (Bert) Widdowson and includes the Pet Palace. As a young man Dr. Jones served in the Maryland legislature, then became a Methodist pastor in the Virginia Conference. He returned to Allen frequently to speak at Homecoming services at Asbury Methodist Church. Mr. Wilkins lived on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and published this article in the Eastern Shore News on March 26, 1994. He was a member of the Allen Historical Society until his death a number of years ago.*

My mother, like her father before her, was born in a comfortable farmhouse on the edge of the village of Allen, Md. Her parents had been married for four years when she was born in May, 1904, and an elderly aunt walked over to see the new baby.



**The Jones Home**

She returned home and reported: "That baby is going to die." "Why, what's the matter with her? I've heard she's perfectly healthy."

"Yes, I know, but she's going to die. I've never seen people as crazy over a baby as they are, and as many people as have babies they don't want, I just know she's going to die." So much for optimism.

She very nearly did die in her second summer, the time that all parents dreaded in the early years of this century. At age two, infants often had diarrhea, could not keep anything down, and died of dehydration, as numerous sad tombstones attest. Ruth Jones, suffering from this illness, was severely dehydrated when her grandfather took her out into the peach orchard and began to feed her pulp from the ripe fruit.

My grandmother, seeing him, rushed out and exclaimed, "Mr. Jones, don't do that! You'll kill that baby!" "She's going to die anyway, and maybe this will ease her a little." As it turned out, she digested the peaches, got liquid into her system, and lived to age 78.

When Ruth was 14 World War I was raging, and patriotic girls learned to knit for the war effort. In the summer of 1918 she was concentrating mightily on her knit-one-purl-two as she walked out to the front porch and sat down in a rocking chair. She looked up to see a black snake not three feet away, curled in the rail.

She made the welkin ring with her shriek. In the kitchen her mother reacted, "Ruth's dead!" "No, she isn't," replied her grandmother, "or she couldn't scream like that." Two hundred yards away some men working in the field heard her and rushed to the house to see what was wrong. Of course, they killed the snake, which was harmless.

That autumn the dreaded influenza epidemic struck, with many victims in and around Salisbury. Ruth took sick at school one day and was sent home in someone's car. As she entered the front door of the old house, her grandmother met her. Ruth embraced her and cried, "Mama, I've got the flu. I'm going to die." (The As in "Mama" are pronounced

as the A in "at.") Obviously, and fortunately for me, she did not.

One day in 1921 Ruth's beloved Mama failed to come down to cook breakfast, the first time anyone had known her not to be there to begin preparations for the day. She declined rapidly and soon died, after ruling with an iron hand over the household for more than 50 years.

With Williamanna Phoebus Jones dead, others were free to pursue their interests. Ruth's father, Roscoe Jones, had gone in 1895 to the University of Maryland to study law, but after a year his mother told him she had not been feeling well and knew she would not live long. She asked him to come home until she died, which in the event was more than a quarter century later.

By 1921 his interest had shifted to the Methodist ministry, which he entered that fall. His first charge was in Cape Charles, with momentous consequences for me. The Jones family left the farmhouse which Roscoe's grandfather, Thornton Phoebus, had built in 1859, and drove in a 1917 Saxon Six the 100 miles to Cape Charles.

Along the way the rutted roads bounced a Seth Thomas clock off the car and onto the roadbed. My grandmother had bought it in 1913 when Beatrice Jones, my grandfather's sister, had married Twilley Malone. The Joneses had given an identical clock to the newlyweds, and Kate Jones liked it so much that she bought a duplicate.

The tumble did no perceptible harm to the clock, which was retrieved and stood in my grandparents' house until they died. Then it was given to me, and it still keeps nearly perfect time.

**A Letter from Ruth Wilkins to Jack Malone, December 12, 1980**

*Editor's Note: The following letter was among the papers donated to the Society by the sons of Bettie Sue Malone. It is*

*concerned largely with the history of our village. She refers to what must have been a larger history, which has just been typed by her brother Elliott and to which this letter was apparently attached.*

As I re-read the story, these random thoughts came to mind - some questions. I'll list them.

1. Mr. Huffington saw a soldier shot in the abdomen as he describes the scene of Jake's death - Gettysburg, I think. Such a scene is described in either Ellen Glasgow, *The Battle Ground* (1902) or Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage* (1895). Dad knew both well - not Crane, I think. (*Editor's Note: The Mr. Huffington referred to here is undoubtedly John Huffington, who fought in the Confederate army during the Civil War and did participate in and was slightly wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg.*)



**John Huffington with his son, J. Walter**

2. The shooting of the boy . . . was, Dad always said, "in front of the schoolhouse." I suspect he meant the old one in one corner of the churchyard. It was there until c. 1870. Uncle Paran went to school to Grandfather there: Grandpa Jones built the house in Allen (1867) - Uncle Lem Malone, then L. Price taught there. (*Editor's Note: It's unclear to me whether she is referring to the old schoolhouse being built in 1867 or their own home, which, according to the previous article by her brother, was built in 1859.*)

3. The uncle's home was, I think, the one which stood where Maiblume and Drexel live or lived. The uncle was probably Jesse Huffington whose grave is on east side (Dad called it "southeast" side) of church. *(Editor's Note: I believe that the previous references and those which follow are to a short story written by Roscoe Jones, Ruth's father, which was based on the experiences of John Huffington during the Civil War. John Huffington's uncle would have been Jonathan Huffington, Jr. Jesse Huffington was his cousin. Both lived on farms on either side of what is now Collins Wharf Road, a short distance from Noble Farm Road. I reprinted the story a few years ago as an appendix to my genealogy of the Huffington family. It is too long to be included in the Historian, I think.)*



**Jesse Huffington**

4. Mr. H on leave did sleep and stay inside days and visit nights, Dad said.

5. I've no idea who "Col. Howard" was; the location of his house seems about where Dr. Jarman's place is. I do not know whom Mr. H. married - on her tombstone. I suppose Helen Porter will know. *(Editor's Note: The Jarman farm or Brentwood Farm is located a couple miles south of Allen on the right. The 18th century house that still stands there was built for the Rev. Alexander Adams, rector of Green Hill Church from 1704 until 1769. John Huffington married Caroline Hayman after returning from the war and they made their home in the house in Allen currently owned by the Prestilios. He operated a blacksmith shop there. He died in 1910.)*



**Jonathan Huffington, Jr.**



**Jonathan Huffington Jr.'s Home  
Collins Wharf Rd.**



**Home of John & Caroline Huffington**

6. "Wash Marley" was Wash Martin, great-uncle of Jean Nichols, who may know something of him. He was killed, I'm sure.

7. The idea of loyalty was expressed beautifully by Richard Lovelace (England,

17th C.) in "To Lancaster on Going to the Wars." Speaking to his beloved, the speaker says, "I could not thee so dearly loved, loved I not honor more."

8. I'm also sending some notes Dad made on church; maybe you and Florence Byrd can make something of them. I cannot find a 1948 bulletin. (*Editor's Note: 1948 was the centennial year of Asbury Church. We have a copy of the Homecoming bulletin for that year in the AHS files.*) . . . Dad's scholarship left much to be desired, but I'm glad he wrote the little he did.

9. Do you know the date when Allen became a Southern Methodist Ch.? I have a long letter from Mr. Fred Messick, written about ten days before he died, in which he says his father told him of having slept in church with his gun beside him. Southern sympathizers nailed the doors shut, vowing that they would never be opened until they were opened for a Southern church, but I do not know what year. (*Asbury withdrew from the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to join the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1866. The Methodist Episcopal Church had split over the issue of slavery in 1844. Both branches of U.S. Methodism, as well as the Methodist Protestant Church, merged once again in 1939.*) You probably know that Grandpa Jones freed his few slaves and joined the Democratic Party; Grandpa Phoebus freed his few and joined the Republican Party: the consequence was they've fought the war every election through November 1920! I loved it! And Yankee soldiers were actually quartered in Dr. Buchness's house! (*Editor's Note: Now the Widdowson house. Built by Ruth's Grandfather Phoebus and later lived in by her Grandfather Jones (See photo on p. 10).*) Four of them had the bedroom the Buchnesses use (S.E.) Mama said, "We knew they were Catholics because we could hear them counting their beads on the floor at night!" Naive Mama! (*Editor's Note: In another telling of this story we learn that the Union soldiers were throwing dice*

*upstairs! The parts of the letter with historical interest end here.*)

### **The Ministers at Asbury Church from 1829 until 1865**

*Editor's Note: The following information was gleaned from a document written by Rev. Roscoe Jones and included in the materials given to the Society by the family of Bettie Sue Malone.*

Asbury was originally part of the Princess Anne Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1829 the pastor was Levi Storks, J. Bell, Jr. preacher. Henry White was the Presiding Elder. The district was known as the Lower District, later changed to Snow Hill in 1840, J.E. Massey, Presiding Elder. In 1848 Salisbury had 734 white members and 470 African American members; Princess Anne had 716 white members and 405 African American. That year the Philadelphia Conference met in Easton and the pastors assigned to Princess Anne Circuit (including Asbury) were Wm . Campbell and R.H. Pattison, Jr.

1849-1850: R. E. Kemp and Wm. Rink, Jr.

In 1850 Quantico was formed as a circuit, although it was a very early Methodist appointment. Francis Asbury himself had preached there.

1851-1852: B.F. Price and W.E. England, Jr..

1853: A.W. Milby and J.B. Quigg

1854: A.W. Milby and J.L. Heysinger, Jr.

1855: Vaughn Smith

1856: Jas. A. Massey and Geo. A. Phoebus, Jr.

1857: Massey and H.T. Johns, Jr.

1858: Jas. Hough and Chas. B. Lore, Jr.

1859: Hough and Wm. Trickett, Jr.

In 1860 with the Civil War just ahead, the Conference met in Philadelphia, and Adam Wallace and T. F. Plummer were sent to the Princess Anne Circuit.

1861: Jas. Hargis and T.F. Plummer

1862: Jas. Hargis and T. L. Thompson

1863: S.M. Cooper and Thompson

1864: Cooper and Geo. A. Phoebus

1865: Geo. A. Phoebus and J.M. Purner

Purner's abuse of the South was so violent as to result in the locking of the church against him.