

THE ALLEN HISTORIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 31, Allen, MD 21810

Web Address: allenhistoricalsociety.org

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George Shivers, Editor

Community Calendar

Sunday, Sept. 20, 11:30 am. Homecoming service at Asbury United Methodist Church. Luncheon following at the Allen Community Hall.

Saturday, Sept. 26, Allen Lions Club Poker Run. Launching between 10:00 and 12:00 am.

Saturday, Oct. 3, 7:00 am – 10:00 am, Allen Community Hall, Allen Volunteer Fire Co. Auxiliary breakfast.

Saturday, Oct. 17, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Asbury United Methodist Church bazaar, Allen Community Hall.

Sunday, October 25, 7:00 pm – “Allen in the Civil War,” a dramatic performance to mark the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War in April, 1865. Sanctuary of Asbury United Methodist Church, reception following in church Great Room. Tickets: \$15. Available in advance, and we encourage you to purchase in advance. This is a fundraiser in support of the renovation of the Huffington-Pollitt House.

Sunday, Nov. 8, Allen Lions Club Pit Beef dinner. 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, Allen Community Hall

Nabb Research Center & Other SU Events Events

Rails Across Delmarva Exhibit, Sept. 9 – Dec. 4, Nabb Gallery, Mon., Wed., Fri. 1-4 pm.

Distinguished Faculty Lecture – John Wesley Wright, “Spirituals from Ship to Shore.” Wednesday, Nov. 11 7 pm. Holloway Hall Great Room. A performance –lecture that explores the journey of the African-American Spiritual

In Memoriam



Russell White Banks
Sept. 2, 1924 – July 19, 2015

Russell W. Banks, a long-time member of our Society, was born in Allen, the eldest son of the late Oliver O. and Laura Huffington Banks. He attended Wicomico High School and Beacom College.

Mr. Banks was employed by Roberts Industries and was manager of the local shipyard, building landing craft during World War II. In 1963 he joined Proudfoot consulting Co. and later became a partner. He was the first president of Proudfoot of Canada and later headed several U.S. subsidiaries. He retired in 1987.

His wife, Aline Bounds Banks died on November 7, 2013. They met while skating on the pond in Allen. They were married for 72 years. Mr. Banks is survived by a son,

Russell G. Banks and his wife, Chulaporn of Claremont, FL; daughters Patricia Banks, of Quincy, FL and Susan Baysinger of Salisbury; by a granddaughter, Nicole Sener of Churchill, MD; a grandson, Cory Baysinger and his wife Traci of Laredo, TX and great-grandchildren, Brady and Brooklyn Baysinger. He is also survived by a sister, Nancy Banks of Millsboro, DE, and a brother Oliver O. Banks of Rising Sun, MD, and by nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother, Philip Banks.

A Note on the Civil War in Allen

As we mark the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, the Allen Historical Society is presenting a play in October portraying the impact of that war on a number of our village's residents. In line with that, among the papers presented to us by the heirs of Bettie Sue Payne Malone was a letter from Ruth Wilkins, daughter of Dr. Roscoe Malone, to the late John (Jack) Malone. In that letter, she cites the following Civil War episode told to her by her father. It refers to a boy being shot by Union soldiers stationed in Upper Trappe to control the smuggling of goods to the Confederate enemy. This account seems to be the only reference to this episode in any document, as far as your editor has been able to determine. We refer to the event in our play.

“The shooting of the boy (real name Doon) was, Dad always said, “in front of the school house.” I suspect he meant the old one on the corner of the churchyard. It was there until 1870. Uncle Paran went to school to Grandfather (Levin B. Price) there.”

Jonathan Huffington, Jr. and his Slaves

Jonathan Huffington, Jr. was my great-great grandfather and an ancestor of many of us from Allen. After all, he had nine children,

eight of whom survived to adulthood, married and had families. There were three surviving sons and five daughters. Unfortunately, Mr. Huffington was also one of the major slave owners of Somerset County, of which Allen (Upper Trappe) was a part during his lifetime.

The Huffington home property lay on both sides of what is now Collins Wharf Road, just beyond Noble Farm Road. That property was inherited by his son Jesse (my great-grandfather) at his death in 1862, however, his two older sons William and James owned large farms on what is now Cottman Road. James' widow, Eliza, of course, later had built and lived in the Huffington-Pollitt house, which our Society has been slowly, very slowly working to rehabilitate.

Researching the Slave Schedule for the 1850 federal census, I learned that Jonathan Huffington owned five slaves, all male, ranging in age from 6 to 44. They are listed as follows:

Male – 44
Male – 20
Male – 15
Male – 8
Male – 6

Yet ten years later, in 1860, the Slave Schedule shows that he owned 25 slaves! It is likely that the younger children arrived by natural increase. I have not yet been able to discover whether he acquired other slaves through purchase or through an inheritance. Sadly, we know that slaves were considered one of the best financial investments in those times.

Male – 71
Male – 60
Male – 60
Female – 55
Female – 52
Male – 50
Female – 45
Male – 40

Male – 40
Male – 40
Male – 36
Female – 30
Male – 28
Male – 26
Male – 22
Male – 22
Male – 20
Male – 20
Male – 17
Female – 17
Male – 9
Male – 9
Female – 5
Male – 4
Female -1

It must be noted that the federal government did not even offer them the dignity of being mentioned by name, only by gender and age. Nor were family relationships given. By comparing the ages of males and females in the 1860 list, we might be able to surmise who might have been married couples and the parents of the younger members of the slave community, but it would be nothing more than guess work.

I will engage in a little guesswork in trying to determine which of the slaves listed in 1860 correspond to someone in the list from a decade earlier. We have to take into account also that ages are often not accurate in the early census data, even for white residents, much less slaves. Still, it is quite possible that the man age 44 in 1850 could be one of those either 60 or even 50 in 1860. The man age 20 in 1850 might well be the one age 28 in 1860. The boy age 15 may correspond to the 26 year old ten years later, while the boys age 8 and 6 probably are the 20 and 17 year old men listed in 1860. Of course, we also do not know if they survived those ten years or were even sold.

Jonathan Huffington died in 1862, and his will gives interesting details as to what happened to at least some of his slaves. Actually, of the 25 he held in 1860, only 5 are mentioned in the will. What was the fate

of the other 20 is a mystery. They may simply have been gifted to his sons, but if so, I have found no existing record of that. But we do have names for five of the slaves. Among the provisions of Mr. Huffington's will as they apply to his slaves are the following:

To his wife, Sarah, he left slaves Robert and Henrietta, "to be her servants during her life, but at her death they shall become the property of son Jesse." Then he adds, "and it is my earnest desire that the above named negroes shall be well provided for during their lives, as they have been obedient and faithful servants."

To his oldest son, William, he bequeathed "my negro boy Addison. . . and my man Peter provided my son shall pay into my estate the sum of three hundred dollars, being the balance of the purchase money due for the said Peter.

To his second son, James, he left the "negro boy Noah.

To youngest son Jesse, he left "my negro boy Ephraim."

It is sad to note that these slaves were disposed of in much the same way as a horse named Sam, which went to Mrs. Huffington, and a mule called Jack, which went to son Jesse.

In another provision, however, Mr. Huffington states that "his negro boys Addison, Noah and Ephraim shall serve their respective masters as follows: Addison for a term of fifteen years, Noah for a term of eighteen years, and Ephraim for a term of twenty-five years, beginning January 1, 1859. After their terms of service they are to be freed. Of course, all Mr. Huffington's slaves remained free two years after his death, when on November 1, 1864, a new Maryland constitution emancipated all the State's slaves. I suspect that the three children alluded to may correspond to those

aged nine, nine and four in the 1860 Slave Schedule.

One final note on the matter of the Huffington slaves. The final accounting of Mr. Huffington's estate didn't occur until April 15, 1865, more than three years after his death. In that accounting it is noted that the appraised value of Negroes, "now emancipated by present constitution of the State of Maryland" was \$900.

The Wives of Jonathan Huffington, Jr.

Jonathan Huffington, Jr. was married twice, first to Henrietta (Henny) Adams, to whom he was wed on January 1, 1815 (according to Somerset County Marriage Records), but on the 25th according to an entry in the Huffington family Bible. Henrietta Adams was the mother of his nine children. She died on September 5, 1839 at the age of 41.

Mr. Huffington married his second wife, Sarah (Sally) Benson on January 6, 1841. Both wives present us with something of a mystery, since neither have a monument in the Allen Cemetery. This is not a surprise in the case of Henrietta Adams, since she died almost thirty years before her husband and at the time of her death they were living on a farm on property near the Wicomico River and what is now Cooper Road. Perhaps she was buried on that property, in which case, her grave is no doubt long lost. We also don't really know what her family connections were prior to her marriage to Jonathan Huffington. It seems likely that she was one of the many descendants of the Reverend Alexander Adams, rector of Stepney Parish from 1709 until his death in 1769. He had many children and grandchildren, but I have not been able to connect Henrietta to the family. In the case of Sally Benson, her family connection prior to her marriage to Jonathan Huffington is also a mystery. Ruth Dryden in her book *Those Boundless Bounds* writes that she was a daughter of William Bounds, however, my

recent research has clearly established that she was a Benson by birth, since her brother, James Benson, handled her estate after her death.

Sarah Benson Huffington did not survive her husband by long, dying in August of 1865. Census data suggests that she was born in 1800, making her 65 at the time of her death. It is interesting that a story that has come down in the Huffington family tells us that Jonathan Huffington's children were not pleased with his proposal to wed a second time. In 1841 the oldest son William was 25 years old; daughter Sally was 24; son James was 22; daughter Hester was 16; daughter Martha Jane was 14; son Jesse was 11; daughter Mary Eleanor was 9; and daughter Henrietta was 8. With five children below the age of 20, we can certainly see why their father wanted to marry. It seems, however, that, at least the older children, were not that anxious to have a step-mother. The family story goes that when Jonathan wanted to begin courting Miss Benson, his older sons would lock him in his room. The story goes on to say that he foiled them by climbing out the window! Keep in mind that he was a man of 55 at the time! In any case the marriage took place, and by the language referring to her in his will it appears that he was devoted to her during their 21 year marriage. It may be, however, that the older children did not relish the idea of sharing their father's estate with a step-mother in the future!

Documental evident indicates that Sarah W. Huffington died on August 23, 1865. Her estate was handled by her brother James. I was unable to find a will, but I did find an administrative account, according to which her personal estate was valued at \$344.75, and six months interest in the amount of \$10.02 accumulated during the six months after the sale. A credit loss on the sale gave a final total of \$344.14. Other details of the charges to the estate include \$2.00 paid to the auctioneer, George Porter and \$3.00 to Isaac Gibbons who served as clerk at the sale. The publication of the death notice cost

\$3.00. Arthur Lankford was paid \$5.00 for “bricking the grave.” The question is where was the grave? Was she laid to rest beside Jonathan? If so, there is nothing on the tall obelisk that is his monument to indicate that she is there. Did the children’s animosity survive their father’s twenty-one year marriage, causing them, therefore, deny their step-mother a gravestone? Perhaps brother James, aware of some family tensions, had her body buried in the Benson family plot, wherever that might be. The truth is that we don’t know, and probably never will. Just one more of many of history’s mysteries!

Another Note on Slavery in the Allen Area

The will of Isaac Denson, proved on May 31, 1841, made the following interesting provision, as recorded in *Somerset County Wills*:

“Sarah” – Negro woman

Testator desires that Sarah whom he purchased out of the state of Maryland from Levin Farrington shall be free after testator’s decease. To have one acre of land for her natural life and then the land to return to testator’s heirs –the land given to her lying between the county road and the northwest side of the road and adjoining north situation to the east of Samuel Bound’s gate up the road to the forks where Bounds has his road and to adjoin the county road so as to come to a point. The sum of \$20.00 to be left for the purpose of building Sarah a house.

Data from the Somerset County Certificates of Freedom, 1821-1864

The following slaves were granted their freedom by Colonel Joseph Stewart Cottman of Motherton Plantation:

Emily, 18 years old, 5’4”, chestnut (color), October 25, 1862

Sampson, 40 years old, 5’8’, June 11, 1862

Jacob Cottman, 5’4”, 62 years old, light chocolate, February 10, 1863

Simon Crucifer Cottman, 40 years old, Black, August 8, 1850

Jane Nutter, 5’1 ½”, Yellow, 41, October 25, 1826

Jesse Nutter, 6’, 41, Yellow, October 31, 1826

Jesse Nutter, 5’11”, light chestnut, March 6, 1860

Caty Nutter, 19, 5’6 3/8” , chestnut, June 5, 1839

Marcellus Nutter, 32, 5’9”, chestnut, March 6, 1860

Meetings of a Village Circle, October, 1936

Among the items donated to our Library by the sons of Bettie Sue Malone was a small tablet containing the minutes of the meetings of an Allen Circle during 1936 and 1937.

Below are some sections of the minutes from October, 1936. In the list of members present only first names were given. I have included last names, where I was able to feel fairly certain of who was being identified. Unfortunately the secretary did not sign her name. Take note that Allen residents’ love for good food is of long standing!

October 5

Mrs. Laura Banks invited the Circle to meet with her the first Monday in October. We more than appreciate Mrs. Banks being right on the job every year giving us an early start

and needless to say everybody was ready waiting for the summons.

The members present were Gwendolyn (Bounds), Nan, Louise (Elzey), Addie (Griffith), Josephine (Howell), Ethel (Malone), Drucy (Martin), Agnes (Pollitt), Alice, Rose (Shivers), Beulah, Mildred (Whayland). We welcomed quite a number of visitors. Mrs. J.W. Pollitt, Mrs. Daisy Hayman, Mrs. Herma Moran, Miss Martha Huffington, Miss Blossom Cooper. We are glad that we always feel like taking on guests with us at our circle.

The old crowd started out as usual, some playing cards while others (so industrious!) just had to knit, crochet or sew. The circle asked me to keep the minutes again this year. I am sorry that I fell down on the job last year but just felt like I could not undertake it and really it does take some time, and I don't have much of that, but will try to write just a few things each week. Then it was decided we would have a bank to deposit a free will offering just as often as we feel like it. The money to buy flowers, fruit or anything the Circle sees fit to do with it. Miss Pauline Whayland was appointed treasurer, so guess this circle really has a secretary and a treasurer, so we are really growing.

Mrs. Banks served most delicious apple pie just covered up with vanilla ice cream and to drink she served both cocoa and coffee, and I am sure that everyone will agree with me that we spent a most pleasant evening. Mrs. Gwendolyn Bounds invited us to meet with her on October 12.

October 12

Mrs. Gwendolyn Bounds was hostess of our Circle with thirteen members present. Whether thirteen is lucky or unlucky, we surely have that number quite often, but to my way of thinking the thirteen that were here were the lucky ones, and these are they: Mildred (Whayland), Pauline (Whayland), Addie (Griffith), Mamie (Taylor), Louise

(Elzey), Nan, Agnes (Pollitt), Beulah, Josephine (Howell), Drucy (Martin), Alice, Ethel (Malone). We played cards and served. Minutes were read and the secretary presented them with the barrel to deposit our free will offering in, so we can have something to look forward to. It seemed to take real well and I am sure we could very soon have to have a much larger bank. Mrs. Bounds served Chocolate Sundays and several kinds of most delicious home made cakes, which was more than enjoyed by all. Mrs. Elzey invited us to meet with her on Oct. 19.

October 26

Mrs. Clifford Cooper entertained the Circle and did she entertain well. I should say she did. We just had a great banquet, chicken salad, Maryland biscuits, pickles, coffee, ice cream, wafers, nuts and mints. She just makes some of us feel badly in more ways than one. For we surely had the tummy ache when we left, well, I sort a told the best first as I guess most of us enjoy eats best, but we had a very enjoyable evening. Being the last Monday in the month we opened the bank and to our great surprise we had 3.20 in it. Mrs. Messick being the first on sick list, we voted to send her flowers. We hope they made her pains lighter. We had quite a few visitors: Mrs. Daisy Hanes, Mrs. Fred Holloway and Nancy, Mrs. Billy Cooper, Miss Blossom Cooper, Mrs. W. T. Allen, Mrs. T.C. Porter. Members: Beulah, Drucy (Martin), Mildred (Whayland), Pauline (Whayland), Louise (Elzey), Addie (Griffith), Alice, Rose (Shivers), Ruth (Nichols), Agnes (Pollitt), Josephine (Howell), Gwendolyn (Bounds), Ethel (Malone). Absent: Mamie (Messick), Reetta (Wendt), Laura (Banks).

Obituary of Margaret Simms
Wicomico Courier
April 30, 1910

Editor's Note – The names of some of Mrs. Simms' siblings were illegible on the microfilm and so have been omitted.

Died on April 21st, Mrs. Margaret Simms, wife of Mr. Elisha Simms, aged 64 years. Mrs. Simms had been a patient sufferer for more than four years. She was a consistent member of Allen M.E. Church. Besides her husband, she leaves six brothers and two sisters, namely, Messrs. John and Alonso of Allen, Marion of Delmar, [the names of two other siblings have been omitted], and Wesley of Hebron; and R. Winfield of Salisbury and Mrs. R. W. Webster of Deal Island. Her remains were gently laid to rest on Friday last to the family lot in the cemetery at Allen after funeral services by her pastor, Rev. E.B. Lucas. A large number of relatives and friends attended her funeral. May she rest in peace.

Col. Lemuel Malone, Dead
Wicomico Courier
Feb. 13, 1909

Col. Lemuel Malone, who for a number of years has been an inmate of the State Institution at Sykesville, died at that place last Saturday at nearly eighty years of age.

Deceased was a prominent figure in business and political affairs of this county for many years. Born in Trappe District, he attended public schools and secured an education in the district schools. In early life he read law and after his marriage he moved to Salisbury and was admitted in the bar in time to continue in practice for several years.

Col. Malone took an active part in the campaign for the formation of Wicomico

County from parts of Somerset and Worcester counties and in the fall of 1867 was elected the first State senator from Wicomico County. He filled that position with much ability taking rank with the foremost senators of that body. He served in the sessions of 1869 and 1870. This was the only political office he ever held.

Col. Malone married Julia, daughter of the late William Gunby of Fruitland. Mrs. Malone died several years ago. The remains of Col. Malone were brought to Salisbury and interred beside the body of his wife.

**Obituary of Raleigh Norwood
Cathell, Sr.**
Salisbury Times

Raleigh Norwood Cathell, Sr., 74, died at his home here Saturday, Oct. 26, 1991.

Born in Allen, he was a son of Wilsey Olive Phillips Cathell of Fruitland and the late William Allen Cathell.

In addition to his mother, Cathell is survived by his wife Arvetta B. Cathell of Salisbury; a son, R.N. "Jay" Cathell, Jr. of Snow Hill, two stepchildren, Duncan Joseph Runyon, Jr. of Berlin and Lynn Seitz of Salisbury; two grandchildren; six stepgrandchildren; a brother, William Cathell of Laurel; a half-sister, Helen Stacey of Port St. Lucie, Fla; and several nieces and nephews. His first wife, Adelene W. Cathell, died in 1969.

Cathell was owner of Hickory Hill Homes and Hickory Hill Real Estate. From 1947 to 1950 he was sole owner and operator of Peninsula Farm Market in Allen. He was a veteran who served in World War II and the Korean Conflict.

He was a member of Siloam United Methodist Church and American Legion Post 64 in Salisbury, a life-time member of VFW Meuse Post 194 in Salisbury, a charter

member of Wicomico Yacht Club, a member of Nassawango Country Club, and a member of the Loyal Order of Moose 654 in Salisbury. He was one of the organizers of UAW Local 354 at Dresser Industries Inc. when it was Martin Schwartz. He was past president of the Salisbury Camera Club.

Rotch T. Taylor, Electrician, Dies

Editor's Note: The following article is from the *Salisbury Times*. I took it from a photocopy made by our late member, Jim Trader, and the date wasn't included. Since Mr. Taylor died on May 2, 1964, we can assume that the article appeared soon after, perhaps on May 3.

Westover – Rotch T. Taylor, 59, an electrician here, died Saturday of a heart attack in his home in Westover.

Born in Eden, his parents, Fred T. and Elizabeth Taylor, survive.

Also surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Elwood E. Stacey of Northeast; three sons, Lawrence, Thomas and James Taylor, all of Westover and three grandchildren.

Also surviving are five sisters, Mrs. Lottie Taylor of Princess Anne, and Mrs. Betty White and Mrs. Jane White, both of Pittsville, Mrs. Elsie Ake of Fruitland and Mrs. Lucille Langston of Florence, S.C., and three brothers, Paul W. and Jack Taylor, both of Eden, and Fred L. Taylor of Hileah, Fla.

“Icy” News from Early 20th Century Allen

As our summer has heated up, your editor thought that perhaps a couple items from the Allen news in local newspapers from the winter of 1902 might be of interest.

From the *Wicomico News*, Jan. 16, 1902

While the young folks of Allen were skating on the pond Monday, Mr. Earle Messick and Miss Lillie Malone broke through the ice. The night was dark and it was with some difficulty they were removed. Mr. Enoch Bounds in his efforts to rescue them also broke through but was soon out. They finally succeeded in getting a boat to them and they were rescued.

Ironically, just below this item, in the same column, is the following:

The ice is fine and skating delightful. Old folks as well as the young are enjoying it. Most of the ice houses have been filled with choice ice.

From the *Wicomico News*, Jan. 18, 1902

Messrs. Williams and Cathell, Messrs. Malone and Huffington, and Mr. William Goodall filled their respective ice houses the first of the week. This makes five houses that have been filled, being the largest crop of ice ever harvested in Allen during one winter.

An Item in the Allen News Column, *Wicomico News*, Feb. 27, 1902

Editor's Note: This article consists largely of a list of names, but gives an excellent sense of the community leaders in the 19th century and at the turn of the century. Trappe District includes Fruitland as well. Sadly, the sexism of that day reigns in this article. The community's women are ignored. The ethnocentrism is also very evident, with no presence of the district's African American residents.

A trip over the 7th District (Trappe) of Wicomico County – formerly the 7th District

of old Somerset – convinces me that intellectual culture has not advanced to the extent it ought to have done in the last fifty years, considering the largely increased expenditures for the promotion of education.

As an evidence of this fact I will name some of the individuals who were heads of families at that time: Joshua Jones, Noah Rider, John B. Rider, William Gunby, John Gunby, Levin M. Dashiell, Isaac H.A. Dulany, John Laws, Dr. N.S. Rider, John Disharoon, James Stevens, Theodore Hayman, William Williams, Henry White, Isaac Anderson, Dr. Wm. White, Henry Disharoon, Wm. Banks, Henry Banks, George Malone, William Allen, Simeon Malone, Warren Morris, John E. Moore, James Dorman, Jos. Barclay, Col. Joseph S. Cottman, Robert Jones, Thomas Holbrook, Isaac Denson, Henry J. Dashiell, Benjamin Davis, Jonathan Huffington, Wm. and John Whayland, Jacob Morris, George Kibble, Levin Morris, Samuel Somers, Fielder Jenkins, Alexander Pryor and Wm. Collins, Sr. All of the above named have passed away except Isaac Dulany and Levin M. Dashiell.

Those now living who were men fifty years ago are as follows: Isaac Dulany, Levin M. Dashiell, Littleton Smith, R.E. Jenkins, Wm. Dalley, Levin W. Malone, Thomas W. H. White, Joseph S.C. Allen, Lemuel Malone, Jackson Smith, Jesse Huffington, Alexander Jenkins, and may be some others are still living, and may witness the truth of what I have written.

Several of the above named, who have departed this life, were noted for their learning and extensive information of men and things. One of them – Col. J. Cottman – while in Congress was declared to be the best scholar in Congress for thirty-six years. The person so stating was Prof. Tappen, formerly of New England, but for many years a resident of Washington. He said he was intimately acquainted with all of them during that period. Many others of whom we have written were men of culture, and are

not eclipsed by the men of this generation. There are others who deserve favorable mention, but time and space will not permit.