

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, September 17, 11 AM-
Homecoming service at Asbury UM Church
followed by luncheon at the community Hall

Sunday, September 17, 4 PM – Talk by
George Shivers on the history of religious
experience in Allen. This is the first of
several talks to be sponsored by the
Historical Society in coming months
Location: Asbury UMC

Saturday, September 30, Allen Lions Club
Paddle Poker, start launch at 11:00 AM at
Douglass Nichols Park in Allen

Saturday, October 21, Asbury UMC Fall
Bazaar, 9 AM -2 PM at the Allen
Community Hall.

Saturday, November 4, Allen Historical
Society Cemetery Walk. Dinner at 5 PM at
the Community Hall, followed by the
Cemetery Walk.

Sunday, November 12, Allen Lions Club
Beef Dinner, Allen Community Hall

Saturday, December 2, AHS Breakfast with
Santa, Allen Community Hall, 7:30-10:00
AM

up in Allen in the house currently owned by
Norris and Barbara Howard, and he often
spent summers here with his grandparents
and uncle, Hershel Wallace, who was for
many years the village postmaster.

Fred, Jr. was a WWII veteran who spent his
war years in a deserted airport outside of
London for the Army Air Corp. After serving
his country, Fred enrolled in the Wharton
School of Business, University of
Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, PA. Upon
completion of his studies, he began his career
in finance. He was employed with Diamond
Ice and Coal, then finished his career with
American Consumer Industries, Squire
Group.

In 1943 Fred married Mabel Emma Taylor.
They began their family in Parkside, PA in
1948. Although raised Presbyterian, he was
an active member and participant in the
Parkside Methodist Church. Fred was also an
active member of Penn Lodge No. 709 for 70
years. He enjoyed softball, golf, bowling,
traveling, and ocean activities. Fred is
survived by his daughters Margaret Diane
Wallace of San Diego, CA; Patricia Ella
Wallace of Mantua, NJ; and, his brother
Robert Wallace and family of Aston, PA. A
funeral service was held on Thursday June
15, 2017, at the Bateman Funeral Home,
4220 Edgmont Ave., Brookhaven, PA, 19015
with a visitation from 11am-12pm at the
funeral home. On Friday, June 16, 2017, Fred
was laid to rest in Allen, MD

In Memorium

William F. Wallace, Jr. (Fred)

William F. (Fred) Wallace, Jr. died on June
4, 2017. A long-time member of the Allen
Historical Society, his father, Fred, Sr. grew

Huffington-Pollitt House Restoration

Thanks to the efforts of our president John
Culp and secretary Sharon Walsh working

closely with Lisa Ludwig, the Executive Director of the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council, Allen and the immediately surrounding area has been welcomed into the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area. This action qualified us to apply for Maryland Heritage grants. John Culp soon had the grant application ready to submit, no small feat considering its complexity! His hard work paid off and in July we received word that the Society is the recipient of a \$30,000 matching grant. This grant makes it possible for us to move forward with the next phase of restoration of the Huffington-Pollitt House. Even with this stimulus, however more money will be needed to complete the work! Donations from members and friends are always welcome!

Cemetery Walk 2017

The spirits were kept away last fall by a hurricane threat, so our cemetery walk had to be postponed, We are trying again this year on Saturday, November 5, beginning with dinner at the Community Hall. The same "guests" have been invited back this year, and they are all new, never having made their appearance at our previous Cemetery Walks. Come and hear what they can tell us about life in Allen in earlier days.

Two Free African American Families in Upper Trappe

The village of Allen, formerly Upper Trappe, has the distinction of having one of the earliest Free Black communities in Somerset County. The name Roger Dutton appears in the list of "Free Coloured People of Somerset County" in 1832.

An interesting reference to Roger Dutton appears in the 1820 federal census. At that date names were not given. We find him in a household that consists of one free white female, aged between 16 and 25, and 6 free Black persons: 1 male under 14; 1 male 14-

25; 1 male 45 and over; 3 females under 14; 1 female 14-25. This census information came from Ancestry.com, when I looked for Roger Dutton. The information is rather perplexing, but since we know by the information in the 1850 federal census that Dutton was approximately 72 years old at that time, he must be the one male age 45 and over. At that time he was living in District 2, which might include what later became Trappe District, but I haven't been able to determine that for certain.

Twenty years later in 1840, we find him in the same district, though denominated now Middle District. In the household are 2 free Black males under 10, 1 age 10-23, 1 age 24 - 35 and 1 age 55 -99 (probably Roger Dutton himself). There is one free Black female under 10, 1 age 10-23, 1 age 24-35 and 1 age 36-54 (probably his wife).

We aren't able to attach names to the members of his household until the census of 1850. By that time we know that he had purchased land in Upper Trappe both in 1840 and again in 1844. In 1850 he was 72 years old and his household included his wife Leah, 45; son Levin, 17; son Noah, 11; and daughter Elizabeth, 7. His property was valued at \$500.

Another early member of Allen's free Black community was Rufus Fields.

Rufus Fields bought land on the road leading from Upper Trappe to the Upper Ferry on May 21, 1839 from Robert Jones. He had married Jane Dalton two years earlier on April 18, 1837 (*Maryland Compiled Marriages, 1655-1850*). The 1840 federal census records the Fields household as follows: Free colored male under 10: 2; free colored male 24-35: 1; free colored female 10-23: 1; free colored female 24-35: 1. The 1850 census shows that Rufus Fields was 28 years old, thus born about 1822. His home was in Upper Trappe and he was a farmer with real estate valued at \$300. His household consisted of his wife Jane, also 28, and children Henry, 12, Perry, 11, Darky, 9, Eliza, 8, Fields. The 1860 census shows a

different age and birthdate for Fields, age 49, born in 1811. It appears that his wife Jane may have died during the previous decade. In his household are Elizabeth, age 20, Henry W., age 22, Elijah, age 16, Henrietta, age 13, Susan, age 11, Cholly B. (daughter) age 8, Nancy, age 3, and Nelly Dutton, age. 64. In 1870, Fields is 60 years old, born about 1810, Elizabeth B, is 31, Susan E, 20, Shelly R. 18, Nancy A., 13, Levin F., 13, Caroline, 8, Noah W., 6 and Nelly Dutton, 64. Mr. Field's occupation is given as hewer (wood cutter). In 1880, Mr. Fields, age 68, is employed as a timber hauler. His household consists of Sarah E., his wife, 38; Noah W.S., 16, Rufus W., 12; Leah B., 8 and Sarah E., 5.

J. Lindley Allen

J. Lindley Allen was born on February 25, 1874, the son of Joseph Stewart Cottman and Mary Cecelia Phoebus Mary Whittington Allen, the village's first school teacher was his grandmother. He grew up in Allen, but spent much of his adult life in the Pittsburgh area and wrote a regular column for the Connellsville, PA newspaper. Mr. Allen retired as a claims agent on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1939 and on that occasion wrote the following in a letter to the *Salisbury Times*:

“After May 1, 1939 I will hang up the fiddle and the bow, and though I have achieved but little, I don't want my friends and relatives to forget that I have lived – I will reside at Allen, Md at the exact spot and house where I first saw the light of day, more than 65 years ago.”

Mr. Allen died on August 14, 1949. His obituary, published in the *Salisbury Times*, follows:

J. Lindley Allen of Allen, MD died yesterday in Pittsburgh, PA, where he was visiting his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert J.J. Lentz. He was 75.

He had accompanied his daughter home about two weeks ago and suffered a stroke

shortly afterward. His wife, Mrs. Alice Hines Allen, joined him there after he became ill.

The village of Allen was named for his grandmother, the late Mrs. Mary Allen, many years ago (*Editor's note: Other sources suggest that the village was named for his father Joseph S.C. Allen, in 1882; however since his grandmother died in that year it may well be that the name change was intended to memorialize her*). At the time, she was the oldest living person there. It had formerly been called Upper Trappe.

Mr. Allen retired in 1938 from the division of claims agents of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad after serving 22 years. He and his family had lived in Connellsville, PA. They came back to Allen and have been living in the “Old Homestead” where Mr. Allen was born February 25, 1874,

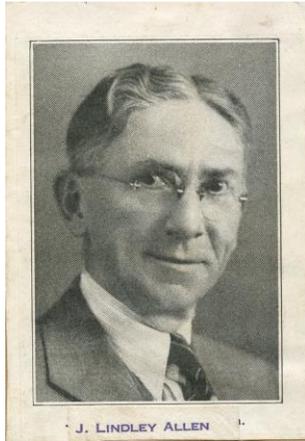
His parents were the late Joseph and Mary Allen of Allen. His father operated a large general store there which housed the first post office of the small village (*Editor's Note: The post office in Allen had been established several decades before Mr. Allen's tenure in that position and had occupied other sites.*) The three Trappes, Upper and Lower Trappe below Princess Anne and Trappe in Talbot County were causing too many mix ups in mail.

When a lad Mr. Allen was employed as a clerk in the old Peninsula Hotel in Salisbury where the Salisbury National Bank stands today (*Editor's Note: Corner of the Downtown Plaza and St. Peter's Street at present*). He later went to Baltimore to work before going with the B & O Railroad.

He was active in the Allen Methodist Church and served on the board of stewards. Besides his wife and daughter (*Editor's Note: Loula Allen Lentz*). he leaves a son, Joseph S.C. Allen of Columbus, MD, on the Western Shore, and five grandchildren

Editor: We have two of Mr. Allen's scrapbooks, containing his writings in our

library in Passerdyke Cottage. The articles which follow are taken from one of them. He was the grandfather of the late Captain Lindley Allen Lentz of recent memory, who was a major benefactor of the Allen Historical Society.



**Some of the Things about Allen, MD
That the Old May Have Forgotten and
the Young Never Knew**

By Lindley Allen

It was once Upper Trappe in Somerset County and came near being a railroad town but got no further than the survey ---- By popular vote Somerset County was relieved of a slab of land and some water and a new county was born and christened "Wicomico" which is an Indian name and might mean SAND and might not. In the division the infant county fell heir to all the sand and half the water ----- and the "Trappe" being on the sandy side of the new county's half of the water it became the matured child of a new born parent ----- Believe it or not" ----

All we lost in the shuffle was the "Old Water Mill," it being on the wrong side of the new County's half of the water but there was no law prohibiting us from visiting the Dusty Miller, and listening to the rushing water - the groaning mill stone and fishing in "The old Mill Stream '----We retained to call our own the Blacksmith Shop with its leather-aproned "smithy" – the ring of the anvil and the smell

of the sizzling horse's hoof ----- the wheelwright shop with its broken farm machinery, strewn hither and thither, waiting to be repaired – the general stores which sold all the necessities, including plows and pills - ---The Post Office, where some members of the family went daily for the possible letter, seed catalogue, market quotation or unwelcome "dun" ---- The little school house "by the pines" which proved to be the stepping stone to the "makings" of Farmers, Teachers, Doctors, Lawyers, Merchants, Husbands and Wives ---- The church where all the villagers worshipped and the members gave vent to their spiritual emotions ---- We had no jail, as we needed none, ours were a law-abiding people, and only occasionally would there be a "flare up" over religion, politics or a checker game ----- Neither did we have an "honest-to-goodness" barber, as every family had a hair cutter, but as they got nothing for their services, were not particular where the shorn locks fell and by force of gravitation they went down the back – but we soon got used to the scratchy feeling -----The lumber mill, which specialized in strawberry baskets – the material being "farmed" out to the homes, and from early dawn to "far in the night" the tap, tap of the hammers could be heard – All the family took part in the work except those who were too young to swing a hammer or too old to see a tack----- Our soil, though sandy, was adapted to all kinds of vegetables, grain and fruit and with the assistance of the climate, could produce anything that California could, with the exception of citrus fruits and "Movie Stars"- ----

We shared each others sorrows and joys, and if necessary, the last side of bacon or plug of tobacco. Our people were home loving, some of whom lived their entire life without exploring the outside world for more than ten miles from their own fireside ----- We Live in a Little World of Our Own ----- For these and other reasons, the writer holds dear to his heart the memories of his childhood, its people and the village bearing the family name.

Berry Hunters Invade Swamp near Allen But Spend Most Time Hunting Way Home

By J. Lindley Allen

Sunday, October 23, 1938, some of the residents of the village were stricken with the wanderlust and decided to go FAR into the heart of the Briscoe Swamp in search of toothsome wintergreen berries. The party consisted of men, women, children and a yellow puppy. All filled their human tanks with stomach fuel and left the home port at 1:00 PM. They made a beautiful “take off” and the last seen of them, in their human planes they were in single file formation and headed due west.

The PILOT was a female who had lived for, two score, years or more within two miles of the old saw mill, where the choicest wintergreen berries were to be found. She knew where every squirrel’s nest was in that thar forest, The PILOT’S “meal ticket” was imported to this country from the suburbs of the County seat and was not familiar with the lay of the land, and he went along as mechanic-entertainer and caretaker of the puppy, which was also the mascot. The other members of the expedition were following the PILOT or “Mother” ship. They took on fuel enough to make the round trip, barring mishaps. When night drew nigh there was no sight, or word or hum of their motors to be heard. Excitement began to run high among the “stay homers” and their fingertips were about worn to the quick in dialing their radios in an effort to pick up an SOS ----- when they failed to contact the human ships, we all became panicky. We were mindful there were ferocious beasts, birds and reptiles in that dismal swamp which made our blood about curdle – the shivers ran up and down our spines. When a rescue party was being formed, we looked to the west and “low and behold” here they come, but not in single file. They were leaning on each other for support.

The PILOT SHIP was bringing up the rear. The Mechanic was towing the mascot and the other members were out of fuel and praying to make homeport without a “crack up.” It was a sorry looking bunch. We could not decide which to do; “kiss’em or kill’em” and being about equally divided, we did neither. Then came the hair-raising story of their adventures – sounded like the old fashioned “fish story.” “Believe it or not.” The party reached the wintergreen berry patch – so they sat –and when they were ready to return their “compass went bad on them” and they were “LOST IN THE WOODS.” The “mascot” was pressed into service as a navigator – thinking his dog instinct would pick up their trail and “back track” their scent, but it was a puppy – had a good nose – but it was not educated to know the difference between the odor of his Master’s feet and that of the well-known perfume bearing animal of the woods, but they had confidence in that puppy and followed him to the cleared land, but they were still lost – they went into the woods again and out again and in again and they were never as glad to see the Allen church steeple as they were on this long to be remembered Sunday night. Poor puppy can’t defend himself and is blamed for the experience. His Master and Mistress are considering renaming him “Wrong Way Corrigan.”

Allen during the American Revolutionary War

by George Shivers

Our Historical Society has devoted much effort recently to the impact of the American Civil War. In the spring we held our very successful Civil War Heritage Day, preceded last year by a play dealing with the Civil War in Allen, which was written, directed and performed by our members and friends. Recently a member asked me what I knew about Allen during the Revolutionary period, and I had to admit that I knew very little. I have tried to remedy that and the results of

my research are contained in this article. Much remains to be done, but at least this is a beginning.

We know that Allen must have been a busy and thriving village in the mid and late 18th century, in large part due to the Adams family, as well as a number of plantations in the surrounding area owned by families like the Bounds, Dashiells, Jones, Anderson, Collins, Pollitts, Baileys, Brewingtons, Polks and Cottmans.

It seems likely, based on oral tradition that the mill had been operating since 1702, but we have documentation in an 1841 deed that it had been purchased by John Adams in 1763. Other members of the Adams family (sons of the Rev, Alexander Adams, Rector of Green Hill Church (Anglican) were engaged in other businesses, including a saw mill, a store and a tavern, all located in the vicinity of the Trappe (milldam), which gave its name to the village during this period. We also know that there were a number of residences that had been established around these businesses.

During the late 17th and early 18th centuries tobacco was the major money crop for farmers in the area, but it soon became apparent that our soil was more suited to growing wheat and corn. Therefore, I believe, that we can safely assume that the plantation owners in the vicinity of the Trappe at the time of the Revolution were engaged primarily in wheat and corn production. The mill so conveniently nearby gives further evidence that this was probably the case. Wheat was very much in demand to feed General Washington's army.

According to S. Eugene Clements and F. Edward Wright in their book *The Maryland Militia in the Revolutionary War* the Militia Act of 1777 called for a senior military official to be named in each county to supervise military affairs. The man appointed to that position for Somerset County was George Dashiell, who resided near the Trappe.

Clements and Wright also give a complete roster of officers and soldiers in the various Maryland battalions. In determining which men were from the Trappe area I have used three criteria:

1. Name of the battalion, specifically two, the Creek Battalion, the Princess Anne Battalion, and the Salisbury Battalion
2. Residence in Somerset County
3. Names that have come up in other research as clearly related to the Allen vicinity. For example the names of many of the men in the Creek Battalion suggest that we are dealing with Wicomico Creek, since in my research in writing *Changing Times* those names appear associated with Allen and Wicomico Creek.

Commissioned Officers:

Alexander Adams, Ensign, 9-22-1777.
Princess Anne Battalion,

Robert Bailey, 2nd Lt. 7-12-1778, Princess Anne Battalion, Capt. T. King's Company

John Brereton, Ensign, 4-6-1781, Captain T. Scriven's Company

Joseph Cotman, Captain, 8-22-1781, Captain G. Wilson's Company, Salisbury Battalion

William Cottman, 2nd Lt., 8-22-1781, Salisbury Battalion, Captain J. Cotman's Company

George Dashiell, Colonel, 1-6-1776
Born August 11, 1757
Died March 25, 1809
Spouse: Betty Jones

John Dashiell, 2nd Lt., 8-19-1776, 1st Battalion
Robert Dashiell, Captain, 9-22-1777, Salisbury Battalion

John Dashiell, 1st Lt., 9-22-1777, Salisbury Battalion, Captain R. Dashiell's Company

Robert Dashiell, Ensign, 9-22-1777, Salisbury Battalion, Captain H. Gale's Company

Robert Hitch, Captain, 4-11-1776, 1st Battalion

John Jones (son of Robert), 2nd Lt., Princess Anne Battalion, Captain T. Irving's Company

James Polk, 1st Lt., 9-23-1777, Salisbury Battalion, Captain H. Gale's Company

John Stewart, 1st Major, 1-6-1776, 1st Battalion

John Stewart, Lt. Colonel, 8-30-1777, Salisbury Battalion

Officers & Soldiers in the Creek Battalion:

Captain Josiah Dashiell
Corporal James Anderson
Corporal Jacob Morris
Corporal Isaac White
Robert Malone
John Goslee
Levi Collins
George Bailey, Sr.
Benjamin Hitch
Isaac Hayman
Joshua Hayman
Joshua Stanford
Francis Disharoon
Stephen Disharoon
William Christopher
William Mallone
Thomas Collins, Jr.
Revell Hayman

(from the Militia Lists of the Daughters of Founders and Patriots, Maryland Historical Society)

Officers and Soldiers of the Princess Anne Battalion:

Captain John Jones

Ensign Alexander Adams
Corporal William Ballard
William Stewart
William Pollitt
Joshua Pollitt
Thomas Pollitt (son of William)
George Pollitt
Stephen Pollitt
Jonathan Pollitt, Jr.
John Collins
Samuel Pollitt
Thomas Pollitt
William Christopher
Ben Polk, Jr.
Levin Ballard
John Pollitt
James Ballard
Nehemiah Pollitt

Residents Who Took the Oath of Allegiance:

Andrew Adams, 1778
Isaac White, 1778

Some of the men listed above were living in the area of Upper Trappe in 1798 When a federal assessment of property was made.

Isaac White had died, but his widow, Elizabeth Christopher White was living in the village near the mill in a house that measured 20' 16'.

Thomas Collins lived on a farm the north side of Wicomico Creek. His unfinished (inside) house was one story and measured 32' 18'. There was also a kitchen, a milk house and a stable.

John Jones also resided on the north side of Wicomico Creek. His house measured 28' X 22'. There was also a kitchen, smoke house, poultry house and a shed that served as a stable.

James Ballard lived in a house owned by John Landreth, located at the head of Wicomico Creek. It measured 32'X 16' and was only partially finished inside. There was also a

kitchen, a milk house, a poultry house, a corn house and a carriage house.

Thomas Pollitt lived at the head of Wicomico Creek near the Eden Academy. His property included a residence that measured 30' 18', as well as a kitchen, smoke house, milk house, lumber house, barn, corn house and slave quarter.

James Anderson resided on a farm near the Upper Ferry in a two-story house described as new and unfinished inside. His property included a milk house, smoke house and stables.

Information from Ancestry.com:

Col. George A. Dashiell, Jr. was born on August 28, 1743 on his father's plantation, Dashiell's Lott. He died on July 5, 1825. He was the youngest son of Col. George Dashiell, Sr. and inherited Dashiell's Lott.

Lt. James Polk was the son of Judge David Polk of White Hall on the Wicomico River. He was born on March 13, 1741.

Benjamin Hitch was born about 1740, married in 1803 and died on March 21, 1814.

Isaac Hayman was born before 1738, the son of John Hayman and Rachel Dorman. He married his wife Rebecca before 1781. His death occurred before Feb. 7, 1805.

Francis Disharoon was born about 1738. He married Sarah Hearn about 1763. His death occurred on May 23, 1788.

William Mallone was born on July 30, 1741. His parents were Robert Dennis Mallone and Mary Harrison.

Revell Hayman was born in 1744, the son of Charles Hayman and Betty Revell.

Lt. William Cottman appears in Wicomico Hundred in the 1810 federal census. At that time he owned 28 slaves.

Lt. John Dashiell lived from 1751 to 1816. He was a member of the Maryland legislature in 1806-1807.

Join our Historical Society!

Individual membership: \$15 per year

Family membership: \$20

Patron: \$40

Sustaining: \$250

Send checks made out to the Allen Historical Society to P.O. Box 31, Allen, MD 21810

Tax deductible contributions toward the Huffington Pollitt House are invited and are very much needed as we try to push the project toward completion.