

# THE ALLEN HISTORIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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VOLUME 14, NO. 3 EXTRA

December, 2008

George Shivers, Editor

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## A Message from the Editor

This has been a busy and exciting fall for the Society, so I thought it merited an extra edition of the *Historian* to fill everyone in on what we have been doing! Remember also that the time is fast approaching to renew your membership for 2009. Dues, once again, are \$15 for individual membership, \$20 for a family, \$40 as a patron, and \$250 as a sustaining member. New members are always welcome!

## Cemetery Walk

On Saturday, September 21 we hosted a very successful Cemetery Walk. The event began with a 19th-century country dinner, consisting of beef stew, cucumber salad, biscuits and apple crisp. Over 100 people attended and were then transported by school bus in small groups first to Friendship United Methodist Church Cemetery, and then to the Asbury Cemetery. Nine citizens from our village's past were at those locations to regale the guests with their stories. At Friendship James Chandler represented James Morris Polk, born a slave on White Chapel Plantation; Annie Jones portrayed Rebecca Caroline Black Polk, born a free woman in 1836 and married to James Morris Polk in 1855; Reginald Polk portrayed his ancestor, Thomas Elzey Polk, who served as a Buffalo Soldier in the U.S. Army from 1882 to 1892; and Althea Chandler represented Mary Joyce. At Asbury, James Waller portrayed his ancestor, Alexander P. Waller, a 19th century farmer; Melissa Bright portrayed Mary Whittington Allen, the village's first school teacher; John Culp was Ashland Malone, a well known village character and gifted electrician; Ken Dolch portrayed

Richard Twilley Porter, major-league baseball player; and Sharon Walsh represented Laura Richardson Hitch, teacher, housewife and mother, much loved by village children during her time.



Aggie Culp Serves Dessert

The Society sold tee-shirts declaring "I survived the Allen Cemetery Walk," as well as note cards with prints of Asbury



John Culp as Ashland Malone



### Inauguration of the 1702 Society

We inaugurated the 1702 Society with a tea held in the Great Room of Asbury United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 25 at 4:00pm. The 1702 Society was created as a special way to honor members and friends for their service to the Historical Society and to the broader community. This year those so honored were Dr. Gladys Allen, Mr. Joseph Ballou and his wife, Mrs. Carolyn Ballou, Mrs. Florence Byrd Cooper, and Mrs. Mary Lee Kolb. The president, George Shivers, read a citation for each of the honorees and presented them with a certificate and a framed print of a local historical site.



Althea Chandler as Mary Joyce

Church, Passerdyke Cottage, and Allendale Cottage. The event raised \$1,200 to benefit the future restoration of the Huffington-Pollitt house and other activities.

### Quilt Raffle

The Society also held a quilt raffle this year. We are grateful to Rebecca McElhone, who provided the beautiful, handmade, queen-size quilt to us free of charge! The drawing was held on October 25 and the lucky winner was Mrs. Carolyn Wheatley of Salisbury! The raffle brought in another \$1,200 to our treasury.



Dr. Allen is not pictured below because, unfortunately, she was unable to be present

for the occasion. Her citation is printed here:

Resolution in Honor of Dr.  
Gladys M. Allen

Whereas Dr. Gladys M. Allen has been a staunch supporter of the Allen Historical Society since its founding,

Whereas she has contributed generously to the support of our goals and activities, and in particular to the establishment and maintainance of the Passerdyke Cottage Museum,

Whereas she is descended from one of Allen's oldest and most distinguished families, indeed the family from which our village received its name in 1884,

Whereas she served the broader community faithfully during a distinguished medical career, including serving as Director of the Somerset County Health Department,

Be it therefore resolved that the members of the Allen Historical Society in honor of her long and faithful service to our community and of her work on behalf of the goals and activities of our Society, do hereby receive her into the 1702 Society of Honor on this 25th day of October in the year 2008.



**Carolyn Ballou**

Resolution in Honor of Carolyn  
Waller Ballou

Whereas Dr. Gladys M. Allen has been a staunch supporter of the Allen Historical Society since its founding,

Whereas she has contributed generously to the support of our goals and activities, and in particular to the establishment and maintainance of the Passerdyke Cottage Museum,

Whereas she is descended from one of Allen's oldest and most distinguished families, indeed the family from which our village received its name in 1884,

Whereas she served the broader community faithfully during a distinguished medical career, including serving as Director of the Wicomico County Health Department,

Be it therefore resolved that the members of the Allen Historical Society in honor of her long and faithful service to our community and of her work on behalf of the goals and activities of our Society,

do hereby receive her into the 1702 Society of Honor on this 25th day of October in the year 2008.



**Joseph Ballou**

Resolution in Honor of Joseph E. Ballou

Whereas Joseph E. Ballou is a long-time member and staunch supporter of the Allen Historical Society,

Whereas he serves most ably as treasurer of our Society, giving generously of his time and talent in that role,

Whereas his conscientious attention to detail and accuracy in his role as treasurer is invaluable,

Whereas he has volunteered often in supporting the maintenance and the program of the Passerdyke Cottage Museum, as well as for other activities of the Society,

Be it therefore resolved that the members of the Allen Historical Society in honor of his long and faithful service to our community and of his work on behalf of the goals

and activities of our Society, do hereby receive him into the 1702 Society of Honor on this 25th day of October in the year 2008.



**Florence Byrd Allen Cooper**

Resolution in Honor of Florence Byrd Allen Cooper

Whereas Florence Byrd Allen Cooper is a charter member of the Allen Historical Society,

Whereas she has served as vice-president and as a member of our Board,

Whereas she has faithfully supported the work of our Society and has contributed generously to the creation and maintenance of the Passerdyke Cottage Museum,

Whereas she is descended from one of our community's oldest and most distinguished families, indeed the family that gave the community its name in 1884,

Whereas she has made available at the museum memorabilia of her Allen ancestors and contributed family documents to our archives,

Whereas she has demonstrated her love of our history by writing and publishing Allen, Maryland: 1702-1970 and Allen, Maryland, 1702-1981,

Whereas she has been a faithful and active supporter of Asbury United Methodist Church for many years and taught in the Sunday School program as well as

speaking on many occasions from the pulpit,

Be it therefore resolved that the members of the Allen Historical Society in honor of her long and faithful service to our community and of her work on behalf of the goals and activities of our Society, do hereby receive her into the 1702 Society of Honor on this 25th day of October in the year 2008.



**Mary Lee Pollitt Kolb**

Resolution in Honor of Mary Lee Pollitt Kolb

Whereas Mary Lee Pollitt Kolb is a charter member of the Allen Historical Society,

Whereas she has been faithful in attendance and in support of the goals and projects of this Society,

Whereas she is a life-long resident of the community of Allen and has been a good neighbor and a strong supporter of community life,

Whereas her father Jesse M. Pollitt and then she and her husband David Kolb and their son David Kolb, Jr. operated a store in the village for most of the 20th century,

Whereas she served for thirty-five years as the postmaster at the Allen Post Office,

Whereas she has served as organist at the Asbury United Methodist Church for all her adult life and continues in that role at the age of 90,

Be it therefore resolved that the members of the Allen Historical Society in honor of her long and faithful service to our community and of her work on behalf of the goals and activities of our Society during the years of its existence, do hereby receive her into the 1702 Society of Honor on this 25th day of October in the year 2008.

### **Purchase of Property**

This month the Society will purchase of the site of the Huffington-Pollitt house from the current owners, Howard and Shirley Spielman. The property is being purchased with a loan from the Sun Trust Bank in Salisbury. The Spielmans are giving us the house, built in 1884-85 for Eliza Pollitt Huffington. We hope to restore the dwelling and eventually make it the new home of our museum and library, as well as a spacious venue for meetings, workshops, receptions and other events, not only for the Society, but for the community as a whole. As noted in letter earlier this fall to all our members and friends, we are now seeking donations toward restoration of the house, which was damaged by fire a little over a year ago. We recognize that the country has entered a serious economic downturn, so that this may not be the most propitious time to undertake such an ambitious project. Nevertheless, if we are to take seriously our goal of preserving to the extent possible our communities heritage, then we must take advantage of this opportunity that has presented itself. We hope that those members who have not yet contributed will

consider doing so in 2009. Remember that no gift is too small and all gifts are tax deductible. Great things can be accomplished in small increments! Of course, large donations are also most welcome!



**Huffington-Pollitt House**

### **Recent Acquisition**

I would like to thank Richard Bounds for presenting us with a copy of the book *The Ocean Highway*, which had belonged to his mother, Joie Rulien Bounds. The book was compiled and written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression. It was published in 1938 by Modern Age Books, Inc. of New York and sponsored by Charles L. Terry, Jr., the Secretary of State of Delaware. It was part of the "American Guide Series," and it describes the areas through which the Ocean Highway (Rte. 13) passed, including Allen, Eden and Loretto. It says the following about the Allen area (pp. 50-51):

"Right on this alternate at a junction with a macadamized road is ALLEN, 3.8 m. (110 pop.), a hamlet where farmers sell their products to shippers at a cooperative auction block.

"Right from Allen on the macadamized road 2.6 m. to an entrance lane leading to the PAUL JONES HOUSE, visible from the road. The small brick structure, erected on the bank of the Wicomico Creek in 1733, has a gambrel roof, dormer windows, and

excellent interior paneling and carved woodwork. The interlocking diamond pattern on the north wall is noteworthy. James Jones, a native of Monmouthshire, Wales, patented his plantation as Jones' Hole. He had first settled in Northampton, Virginia, where, being a Quaker, he was placed in sheriff's custody for 'moveing in ye court in an irrevent manner with his hatt on his head' and refusing to pay church levies. The year after he settled here he was appointed one of the commissioners and a justice of the newly established Somerset County. In 1672, when George Fox was making a tour of the Eastern Shore, the great Quaker organizer held at least one meeting at the Jones' home - a meeting Fox described in his journal as a 'large and glorious' gathering. [Editor's Note: The reference here is clearly to Dashiell's Lott, however, the connection to James Jones is not corroborated in other sources.]

"On the macadamized road at 3.5 m. is the junction with a dirt road leading 1m. to READING FERRY across Wicomico Creek. The flat-bottomed raft-life boat, with room for two automobiles, is similar to two others on nearby Wicomico River. At 3.6 m. the macadamized road ends; straight ahead on the dirt road at 4.3 m. from Allen is the entrance to CHASE HOUSE The Reverend Thomas Chase was residing here in 1741 when his son Samuel, later a signer of the Declaration of Independence and noted jurist, was born. Upon this fact was based the assertion, later refuted, that the signer was born here. An elongated frame structure with dormer windows, the house contains much of the original paneling and woodwork. [Editor's Note: this reference is to Bounds Lott.]

"On the southern edge of Allen, at 4.2 m., the alternate route to U.S. 13 crosses Passerdyke Creek. Near the bridge are the remains of bridge abutments constructed in 1835 for what was to have been one of Maryland's first railroads. On June 3, 1835, the Maryland Assembly enacted the so-called Eight Million -Dollar Bill, providing

funds for the construction of six connecting railroads, including the Eastern Shore Railroad from Elkton to the site of Crisfield. Rejoicing over passage of the bill found expression in public meetings, the ringing of church bells, salutes with cannon and fireworks, and a generous display of flags. Much of the right-of-way for this road was graded and bridge abutments were constructed before it was realized that the program was too ambitious for the State's resources. During the financial panic of 1837 the projects were abandoned, never to be revived.

"At 5.2 m. is the entrance to BRENTWOOD, visible from the highway. The brick part of this imposing structure was built in 1738. The hand-carved mantels, built-in corner cupboards, paneling, hand-wrought nails, and the H-hinges have been preserved. The original builders of the house constructed a cave for some unknown purpose, it is entered from the house by a stairway, has a 15-foot ceiling and is 10 feet in width. In 1806 the estate was known as Adam's Adventure, and later as End of Strife.

"At 7.1 m. is the junction with U.S. 13.

"AT 14 m. on U.S. 13 is EDEN, a hamlet near which was conducted the Eden School, which until 1796 gave instruction to sons of prominent families in Maryland and Virginia.

"At 16.7 m. is LORRETTO, a busy farm-produce shipping point until the development of motortruck transportation."