

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 Events

Saturday, February 27, 7:00pm. Casino Night sponsored by the Allen Volunteer Fire Co. at the Wicomico Yacht Club.

Sunday, March 7, Sunday, April 11, & Sunday, May 2 - Meetings of the Allen Historical Society. Meetings will take place at 3:00pm. Location to be announced.

Saturday, March 27 - Spring Bazaar of Asbury United Methodist Church at the Allen Community Hall, 9:00am- 1:00pm.

Saturday, April 24, Old-fashioned country dinner, 4:00-7:00pm. Sponsored by the Allen Historical Society as a fundraiser for restoration of the Huffington-Pollitt House. Adults: \$12, children ages 6 -12, \$8.

Sunday, May 2, 4:00pm. Annual Tea presented by the United Methodist Women of Asbury Church at the Allen Community Hall.

Sunday, June 6, Friendship United Methodist Church will celebrate its 146 anniversary at 3:30pm. Rev. George B. Moody of Zion United Methodist Church, Sharptown, MD will bring the message, and the choir from that church will also participate in the celebration.

June 28 - July 2 The annual Bible School at Asbury United Methodist Church. Begins at 6:00pm each evening.

July 4 - Annual Independence Day celebration in Allen, sponsored by the Allen Lions Club. Parade begins at 2:00pm at Friendship United Methodist Church on the Upper Ferry Road and ends at the Allen Community Hall on Collins Wharf Road. Hot dogs, hamburgers, soft drinks and homemade ice cream available for sale.

Report on 2009 Fundraising Activities

Last year we engaged in three major fundraising activities. In early June the Society catered a party for the Wicomico County Chapter of the American Red Cross, of which our member, John Culp, is director. That event brought in \$1300.

I would like to thank all of our members who worked very hard in shopping for, preparing and serving the food, and in cleaning up afterward. The party was held at the Bordeleau Winery. I would also like to thank Ron and Sharon Walsh who welcomed some very tired workers to their home after the event to enjoy the leftovers! I would also like to note that our profit level was made higher on this event thanks to the fact that many of the members donated food items, thus reducing our expenses.

In the spring Donald and Daphne Jenkins, friends of John and Aggie Culp, donated a diamond ring, valued at \$700 to the Society as a raffle item. We sold tickets throughout the summer and fall at \$1.00 each/6 for \$5.00, and raised a total of \$1,171.00 with no expenses to us beyond the cost of printing the tickets and getting the necessary permit from the Wicomico County sheriff's office. The drawing was held on December 5 at our pre-Christmas party at the Walsh home. Very special thanks go to member Doris Fretz, who engaged in a true marathon of ticket sales and without whose efforts the raffle would not have been the success that it was! I would also like to thank Donald and Daphne Jenkins for their generous gift of the diamond ring.

In September we held our second annual dinner and Cemetery Walk, which once again was a resounding success. We could not have done it, however, without the help we received from many people in the Allen community who are not members of our group. I wish I could name them

all here, but will not for fear of omitting someone. I can only say that their support was very much appreciated and reminded me once again of that great community spirit which makes Allen such a wonderful place to live! Earnings from the Cemetery Walk, including items sold, were \$2,166.00.

Additionally last year we had wood-blocks made of Friendship United Methodist Church and of the Allen Mill. Sale of these items brought in another \$246.00. Other items sold during the year (books and Allen Map placemats) brought us \$478.90. Thus our fundraising efforts for the year brought us a total of \$5361.90.

Our membership dues for the year brought us \$1,425.00, a substantial reduction over previous years. We hope that will improve in 2010!

We also received donations amounting to \$6,135.00. A heart-felt thank you to all our donors!

A Window into the 2009 Cemetery Walk



Althea Chandler as her ancestor, Mary Dutton Polk, a slave at White Hall Plantation on the Wicomico River



George Shivers & Jeanette Sherbondy as Levin "Squire" Price and his wife Mary.



Sharon Walsh in Asbury United Methodist Church as Clara Gunby Huffington, visiting the village cemetery from Parsons Cemetery in Salisbury to reunite with her husband William after over a century of separation!



John Culp and Melissa Bright as Dr. Roscoe Jones and his wife Kate Price Jones



Rick Pollitt and Aggie Culp as their grandparents, Jesse M. and Agnes Malone Pollitt.

Plans for 2010

The Society has exciting new plans for the current year. It will begin with our Old-fashioned Country Dinner on April 24 (See Community Events Column). The income from this event will go to the fund for the restoration of the Huffington-Pollitt house.

As always we will participate in the annual July 4th celebration in Allen with a float in the parade.

On October 23 we will sponsor our third Annual Cemetery Walk, but this year with an entirely new dimension. The event will begin with the usual supper at the Allen Community Hall. It will continue at Asbury Church and Cemetery, where our guests will hear from visiting spirits. They will then proceed on a stroll through the old village and learn about our ghostly residents! More information on this event in the August newsletter.

Items Available for Sale

The Society has a number of items available for sale. If you would like to purchase any of the following, please contact us by phoning or emailing the president, George Shivers at 410-778-3696 or gshivers2@washcoll.edu. You can also write to our P.O. Box indicating what you would like.

Wood cut-outs of the Old Allen Grist Mill and of Friendship United Methodist Church, available at \$12 each. The United Methodist Women also have cut-outs of Asbury United Methodist Church available at the same price. Contact the Aggie Culp if interested.

"I Survived the Allen Cemetery Walk" tee-shirts, available in various sizes at \$10 each.

Note cards in packages of three with copies of watercolors of Passerdyke Cottage, Allendale Cottage and Asbury United Methodist Church, available at \$5 per package.

We also have copies of our three publications available: *Changing Times, Chronicle of Allen, MD, an Eastern Shore Village* (\$20); *The Ancestors and Descendants of Jonathan Huffington and Henrietta Adams* (\$15); *Ten Years of the Allen Historian: 1995 - 2005* (\$12).

The Whayland/ Insley/Kibble Ledger, mid 1700-1800

The Lower Eastern Shore Genealogical Society recently published an item that will be of interest to our members. It is a facsimile edition of an ancient ledger kept at a business near Collins Wharf and Trinity. It covers the period from the 1760s to about 1800, but with notations from the period from 1900 to 1904 of the financial records of the Allen Legion of Honor. It reveals a lot about shipping on the Wicomico River and the Chesapeake Bay, about early business in our area, and about the Whayland, Insley and Kibble families (as well as others). The ledger appears to have belonged to Thomas Whayland.

Some of the names referred to in the ledger are: William Whayland, Thomas Whayland, George S. Kibble, William Kibble, Jr., Robert Malone, Sarah Kibble, Thomas Collins, Zekel Umphras, Joshua Umphras, George Dashiell, Rolen Collins, James Anderson, Henry Lowes, Tubman Lowes, George Robertson, Robert Dashiell, James Bounds, George Goslee, Thomas Goslee, William Bounds, Hetty Collins, and others.

The book may be purchased by contacting the Lower Eastern Shore Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 3602, Salisbury, MD 21802-3602. Price is \$25 + tax and postage. For Maryland residents who will pick up the book themselves from the offices of the LESGS at 116-1 N. Division St., Salisbury, the tax is \$1.50. For those Maryland residents who want the book mailed to them the additional cost is \$1.50 tax and \$4.50 shipping. Non-residents of Maryland do not have to pay the tax.

The Allen Shield of Honor Lodge

My curiosity was aroused by the reference to the Allen Shield of Honor Lodge in the aforementioned *Whayland/Insley/Kibble Ledger*. As far as I have been able to learn, the Shield of Honor was founded in Baltimore in 1877 by John W. Meeks, W.J. Cunningham, and Henry Duval. Cunningham was a Freemason and an Odd Fellow. The organization was clearly racist and sexist in its origins, permitting membership only to "acceptable" white males. Members were provided sickness and death benefits through assessments paid by the entire fraternity. Most of the membership resided in Maryland and Pennsylvania. (Information from *The Cyclopedia of Fraternities* by Albert Clark Stevens, online at http://books.google.com/books?id=H-K3AAAAIAAJ&pg=PA189&lpg=PA189&dq=What+are+the+Shield+of+Honor+Lodges&source=bl&ots=YD-_eutIt6&sig=RanMf2gCfivqKgYkBWjHOwxAf a0&hl=en&ei=fup6S7PoLpT18QbyicGoCg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8&ved=0CBsQ6AEwBw#v=onepage&q=What%20are%20the%20Shield%20of%20Honor%20Lodges&f=false. (Sorry about this impossibly long address!)

According to the Ledger information the Allen Lodge was organized on May 4, 1900. W.P. Insley served as treasurer. During that year, from June 9 to Dec. 8 the Lodge received \$177.26 and paid out \$184.99. There are additional financial records for the period from 1901 to 1904. I also found a reference to the Lodge in the *Salisbury Advertiser*, Feb. 2, 1901: "The following named gentlemen, members of Shield of Honor Lodge No. 60 of Allen, were invested with office Saturday evening, January 26th. Senior Master: E.A. Denson; Worthy Master: O. P. Jones; Junior Master: L.W. Adkins; recording and financial secretary, Otho Bounds; treasurer: J. Costen Goslee; Conductor: E.B. Hearn; Chaplain: P.A. Malone; right and left supporters to the Worthy Master, W.P. Insley and L.W. Malone; right and left supporters of the Junior Master, E.P. Huffington and W.F. Messick; inside guard: F.J. Twilley; outside guard, W. J. Murray."

Allen Winter's Past

In view of this cold and snowy winter, I am adding here a few articles dealing with Allen winters past. They are from the *Salisbury Advertiser*.

Mr. Earle Messick and Miss Lillie Malone, daughter of Postmaster Malone, while out skating last Monday night ran in a hole where Smith Bros. had been getting ice and came very near being drowned. They were in about nine feet of water. Their cries for help soon brought the other skaters to their rescue and none too soon for the unfortunates were fast becoming benumbed and exhausted in their efforts to keep their heads above water. The rescuers quickly launched a skiff that was lying on shore and got the parties out of their predicament. They had been in the water fully ten minutes. We caution our young people to be particular when skating at night. It would be a safer practice to abandon the night skating altogether. The day time is better for this sport. (Jan. 18, 1902)

Did any of our residents ever see a man who thought he could skate and start out to excel all others in cutting the pigeon wing and grape vine? If they never have, they should have been in Allen Monday afternoon last and they would have seen just such a man as aforementioned. It was worth a trip from the Philippine Islands to see - not the man exactly, but his antics. If we could only have advertised it "before" instead of "after", charged admission fee, Allen would today be ready to build her town hall and pay the spot cash. This man who had skates on and acted as if he had a "skate" on from the "cup of cheer" was none other than Lee Porter. Lee is a good fellow and has but two enemies in the world that we know of: a pair of skates. Lee has got it in his head - pretty big too - that he can do most anything any one else can and judging from his performance of last Monday, he "lays all over" the members of the skating fraternity in Allen and the ice too. He started out, as he said, to show the boys a trick or two and would do it or die. He showed them some seven or eight hundred and then died temporarily. It is beyond the writer to describe Lee's antics accurately, but he will do the best he can under the circumstances as he is almost as sore from laughter as Lee is from skating. In the first place Lee has a foot about the length of a short ironing board and it is impossible to fit a skate to it as it should be. He said he didn't care for that; neither did we. With the assistance of 6 boys he got them harnessed on and gave notice for right of way and got it. The small boys knew what was coming and it was amusing to see them scamper in every direction looking for all the world like Palmer Cox's "little brownies." We give the performance by "rounds." Round 1st: Lee struck out with his right, which carried him a short

distance. He thought to do as well with his left but she wouldn't "do." In trying to do the trick with his left he executed one of the prettiest back steps for about a minute it has ever been our pleasure to see. No harm done. Round 2nd. He tried sculling in this round and did some beautiful work. His body was as gracefully carried as a patent bed spring. He seemed to realize he was doing finely and watched his feet, evidently with as much pleasure as a young mother watches her first born. There was a little trouble in stopping owing to one skate kicking the other. Lee made a grab at vacancy, but both feet went out from under him and down he sat on the ice like one would on a chair, only a little harder. Rest for a moment on account of slight jar. Round 3rd. This proved to be the last round and was a little more interesting. Lee tried "treading the circle" backward in this round and did some clever foot work, but before winding up his pedals got farther and farther apart until he was compelled to cry out for help. It was well we got to him when we did as he would have been carried home in halves a few minutes later. We got him straightened up and he started in for the "grape vine." We think he cut a wild one. He twisted, he turned, he whizzed around like a singing top, slinging his arms like a wild man. A small boy got near him and received a back hander to the mouth that sat him on the ice. The round was growing exciting. Lee was making genuflexions at the rate of seventy-five to the minute. Back stepping and high kicking came in for a good share. While paying attention to this part of it, his hat came off and his striped coat tails were fluttering like the stars and stripes in a strong breeze. The crowd was cheering madly now. The "grape vine" would soon be finished. Lee was yelling frantically for help, but we were afraid to venture near. He was going around like a small fly wheel and using his arms like they were piston rods on an upright engine. With one cry of despair that brought cold chills up the spines of many, his feet shot out from under him and he landed on his head.

(Editor's Note: Unfortunately the text is illegible at this point. It ends with the comments of an onlooker as follows:))

"It was the most beautiful sight," said he, "that I ever beheld." We asked him if he would like to see the sight again. He replied, "Not this year." Lee is done with skating for a season, no doubt. (Jan. 11, 1902)

The Grippe has surely "reigned supreme" in Allen this winter. An old citizen remarked the other day that he had not known the like in this village since the flood. (March 16, 1901)

Editor: I'm sure that by this time all of us can echo the following rather poetic statement by the writer of the Allen News column on April 14, 1893!

"At last the penetrating rays of Old Phoebus break through the dense, dismal clouds of stern, rigid, frigid, old winter and dispel the gloom that has hung so long like a dark canopy in our sky. We rejoice in the gladsome light and hail with exquisite pleasure the return of balmy spring. The warbling birds in the leafless tree, the discordant croak of the timid frog proclaim the departure of winter. Let us hope that the last struggle is over and that winter will not linger to nip the buds of May."

May it be so!

The Kibble Family

The name Kibble has disappeared from the local scene as far as I know, at least in the Allen area, but as is evident in the ledger mentioned earlier in this newsletter, that family was very prominent during the 18th century. What follows is information from my book *Changing Times* and from the *Whayland/Insley/Kibble Ledger* regarding the Kibble family.

The 1798 federal assessment, the so-called "Glass Tax" describes a house belonging to of George Kibble, located on the north bank of the Wicomico Creek, a short distance from its mouth. The house was apparently newly constructed and still unoccupied by the owner. It was of wood and measured 32' X 26'. Meanwhile Mr. Kibble was living in another house, also near the mouth of Wicomico Creek. It was described as "very old" and measured 32' X 18'. George Kibble owned 10 slaves at that time.

The 1829 deed for the Asbury Methodist Church property indicates that the lot purchased on which to build the new church was bounded on the SW line by George Kibble's lot.

Information on page 70 of the Ledger indicates that George Stevens Kibble was born on Oct. 21, 1774. He married Mary Malone on April 22, 1793. She was born on March 30, 1775. They

had the following children: Thomas (born Feb. 5, 1794; George S., Jr. (born March 9, 1796; Hetty (born March 1, 1798; Robert Malone Kibble (born Jan. 20, 1800).

Their daughter Hetty married Charles Willin, and they had a son George Washington Kibble Willin, born on Feb. 14, 1825.

George S. Kibble, Sr. died on Sept. 19, 1800.

Tubman Lowes

The name of Tubman Lowes also has some prominence in the aforementioned ledger. According to information drawn from the 1798 federal assessment, Lowes lived near the residence of George Kibble. His home is described as a two-story brick house, 52' X 32', very old and in very bad repair. On the property there was also a kitchen, a milk house, a brick pantry and a smoke house. At that time Lowes owned more slaves than anyone else in Somerset County, with 46.

Other records of Mr. Lowes include a reference in the Somerset County Orphans Court on March 6, 1811, which indicate that he, along with William Tilghman, was appointed by the court "to view and appraise the property of Joseph and Sarah Cottman, orphans of William Cottman," who were in the care and guardianship of Esther Cottman. (Somerset County Orphans Court Proceedings, 1811-1823, p. 5).

References to Tubman Lowes in the ledger include his sale of one hogshead of tobacco on June 8, 1798. Another notation on March 3, 1792 indicates that "Mr. Henry Lowes is going to Mr. Thomas Blakes for Mr. Tubman Lowes with my boat and hands four days. The next item indicates that Lowes used that boat again on June 2, 1792.

Lost Allen

Sadly our village has lost several of its important landmarks during the last two years. The first to go was the old Whayland store and residence. According to Paul Touart in his recently published volume *At the Crossroads, the Architectural History of Wicomico County, MD*, the building dated to the 1890s, when it was constructed on a lot where James Dashiell had a store earlier in the 19th century. The last owner of the business was Louis Alonza Whayland who

operated the store for more than 30 years, beginning in 1917.



Whayland Store & Residence
(Photograph from *At the Crossroads* by Paul Touart. Preservation Trust of Maryland, 2008. p. 386)

More recently the house that had belonged to the late Mrs. Lillian Malone was razed. We don't know exactly when the house was built, but it appeared that part of it dated to the early or mid-19th century and that it had been enlarged and renovated in the late Victorian period, perhaps in the 1890s. The house was owned by Henry and Martha Polk from 1919 until 1933. Lillian Stowman (Malone) and her first husband, Walter, purchased the property in 1941, sold it in 1947 to Zdzislau Stocker, but then purchased it back in 1951. Mrs. Malone lived there until 2002.



Lillian Malone House

The last house to go was the one built in 1883 for Mr. Benjamin Franklin Messick, local farmer, merchant and carpenter. Mr. Messick and Mr. Peter Malone built the steeple on Asbury United Methodist Church at about the same time his new home was built. To build that house, he moved an older dwelling, dating to the early 19th century, across the road. That original house was also razed about a decade ago. Also razed was a 19th century barn on the property.

Unfortunately, the house had been left to deteriorate for decades.



Benjamin F. Messick House



Barn on Messick Property

It is sad to see our village's past disappear from the landscape piece by piece. It is equally sad, of course, to see the old properties allowed to sink into decay to the point where they can no longer be saved. I believe that reserving these vestiges of our community's past helps to remind to remind those of us with roots deep in the community of who we are and from whence we came, and in that sense, keeps us rooted. But I also think preservation of old Allen is important for our village's many newcomers, for it should provide them with a greater sense of place and that in locating here they have become part of a history and of a local culture. The point is not to live in the past, however, (Something history buffs are often accused of!) but to keep as much of the past as we can alive in the present, so that it will be there for future generations as well. After all, we don't have to forget the importance of the old in order to make way for the new. Both are important.

And that brings me to my further point - the vital importance of saving the Huffington-Pollitt

house. The hard fact is that preserving these reminders of our past and making them serve our purposes in the present and in the future comes at a high cost, in time, in effort and energy, and in money. Our Historical Society is small, and we are facing a gargantuan task. As noted earlier in this newsletter, it will only be with help from many quarters that we will be able to prevent the loss of yet another Allen landmark.

One way of helping to insure the preservation of the old structures in our village is to create an historic district. I hope that at some time in the not-too-distant future the residents of the historic core of Allen will come together to consider that strategy. A good model to consider is that provided by the nearby village of Quantico. I hope that the entire community will join with our Historical Society to help us preserve and improve our heritage, both material and cultural. We recognize that there are many needs in our community and many demands being made on our resources, yet Allen has a history of facing up to those needs and somehow pulling together to do what is necessary to meet them.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS AND WOULD-BE MEMBERS: If you use email, it would help us a great deal to keep in touch with you, if you would let us know your email address. Also, would you be willing to receive our newsletters as an email enclosure? That would represent a savings in postage for us. As editor, I admit, however, that I prefer to hold my reading material in my hands and not read from a screen! If you have a printer, however, there is always that solution!

Keep in mind that your editor is always on the lookout for material for the *Historian*. If you have family stories, genealogy or local anecdotes from the past, please send them my way via our post office box.

If you like this newsletter and appreciate what we are doing as a Society, please join us!

Annual dues:

Individual: \$15

Family: \$20

Patron: \$40

Sustaining Membership: \$250

