

# 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

Thursday, March 9, 7 - 9 PM - Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities. Guerrieri Academic Commons, Assembly Hall.

Saturday, March 11 - Historical Society Breakfast, Allen Community Hall, Collins Wharf Rd. 7:30-10:00 AM. \$8 for adults; \$6 children 6-12; Children under 6 free.

Saturday, March 25 - Spring Bazaar, Asbury United Methodist Church, 9:00 AM - 2:00 P.M. Plants, books, crafts, vendors, baked goods, fried oysters, chicken salad, hot dogs and much more!

Saturday, April 22 - Historical Society Civil War Heritage Day, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Allen Community Hall and Baseball Field, Collins Wharf Rd. Union and Confederate re-enactors, period crafts, spinning and blacksmithing demonstrations, authors of Civil War period books, and food from the period for sale.

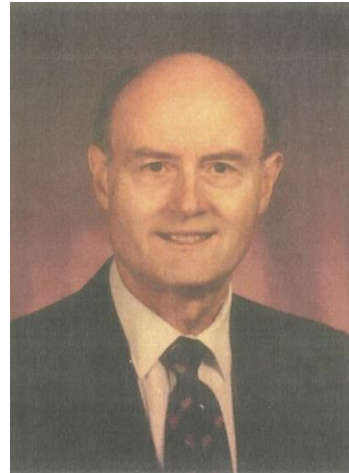
Now through May 31 - When Communities Come Together: African American Education on the Eastern Shore. Exhibition in 1st floor lobby, Guerrieri Academic Commons, Salisbury University. Reception: Thurs., March 9, 6 - 7 PM; Film: 7-9 PM.

Now through Aug. 31 - Nabb Center Exhibit, "Delmarva: People, Places & Time. Guerrieri Academic Commons, Niemann Gallery, 4th floor. Monday-Friday 10 AM - 6 P.M. Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM.

Tuesday, July 4 - Allen Lions Club Independence Day celebration. Parade from Friendship UM Church on Upper Ferry Road to Allen Community Hall, Collins Wharf Road, 2 PM. Hotdogs, Hamburgers, soft drinks and homemade ice cream on sale at Community Hall. Games for children.

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## In Memoriam: the Rev. Dr. Laurence Hull Stookey



Rev. Dr. Laurence Hull Stookey, better known as Larry to his many friends in the Allen community and beyond, died on Oct. 16, 2016 at Asbury United Methodist Village in Montgomery County, MD. He was born in 1937 in New Athens, IL, attended Swarthmore College, the Wesley Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary, where he earned his Ph.D. He was the Hugh Latimer Elderdice Professor of Preaching and Worship at Wesley Theological Seminary from 1973 until his retirement in 2007. In addition he taught at schools in Korea, New Zealand and many other places. Larry was also author of

numerous books, which have been translated into many languages.

During his career Larry served parishes in Colora, MD, Wilmington, DE, Perryville, MD, and most recently at Asbury United Methodist Church here in Allen, where he served for 12 years and where he established his home after retirement, building the house which he affectionately named the "Owl's Nest."

Larry participated in the dedication of the new chapel at Camp David, MD under Pres. George H.W. Bush. He was also actively involved in the revision of the United Methodist Hymnal and Book of Worship. It was and is not still unusual for members of his congregation in Allen to see his name at the bottom of pages in the hymnal, where a number of his prayers are included.

On arriving in Allen he was not a little surprised when at his first Homecoming service the congregation sang our revised version of the hymn the "Little Brown Church on the Lane" as the "Little White Church on the Hill." Larry was quick to point out that there are no real hills in Allen and had soon written new words for the hymn tune that more accurately reflected our reality! It's been a regular part of the Homecoming service ever since!

Larry expressed his creativity in other ways as well. These included working in stained glass. One of his windows is at the Wesley Theological Seminary and another, the theme of which is the "Burning Bush" was his gift to the congregation of Asbury UMC in Allen. He was also a gifted musician, playing the piano, the organ and marimba. Other hobbies included woodworking, photography and liturgical vestments.

Larry enjoyed travel both in the United States and abroad. In one of his trips he was made a Chief of the Oloma people by his Royal Highness King Richard Ogbon II in Ogoni, Nigeria. He had been inside one of the caves where the Dead Sea scrolls were found and

had climbed to the top of the basilica of St. Peter in Rome!

Larry was a member of the Allen Historical Society during most of his time in our village. He will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and of fun, which resided beneath a veneer of dignity and seriousness. At his first Allen Independence Day celebration he appeared dressed as Uncle Sam in red, white and blue! In one of our Society's Cemetery Walks he portrayed a Rev. Plumer, known for having been driven from the church in 1866 because of his strong support for the Union cause in the recently ended Civil War! Larry, as Rev. Plummer, marching down the aisle toward the entrance, wiping the dust of the village from his shoes and pronouncing his disdain for the residents of the village will be forever imprinted on the memory of many of us!

Larry is survived by his former wife and friend, Peggy Reynolds, and two daughters, Laura Mooney of Rockville, MD and Sarah Stookey and her partner Sandra Knight of Gilbert, Arizona, and by his grandchildren, Allison Nelson, Trevor Money, Tyler Money, Dana Kelly, Colleen Kelly, and Jason Kelly.

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### **Notes from Ruth Jones Wilkins**

*Mrs. Ruth Jones Wilkins was the daughter of Rev. Dr. Roscoes Jones. He was born in Allen on the farm that now belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Burt Widdowson of Cottman Road. He served a term in the Maryland House of Delegates and then became a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, now United Methodist.*

*I have referred in an earlier edition of this newsletter to Mrs. Wilkins' plan to write a history of the village of Allen, a plan which never reached fruition. She had, however, made notes, which, after her death came into the possession of the late Mrs. John (Bettie Sue) Malone and her family donated them, along with other materials, to the Allen*

*Historical Society after her death. I am including below some of those materials.  
(The Editor)*

July 4, 1886

In Sister Smith's house - vivid recollection of boardwalk at Sister's and Miss Reeta Wendt's house (*Huffington-Poll litt House*).

Band wagon - like circus wagon - red polka dot clown on front of wagon. Uniforms red.

Xmas 1886

Mr. Peter (*probably Mr. Peter Malone*) brought riding horse in ? (*word illegible*) wagon.

White (Thos.) shoeing horses. Get high.  
(*Editor's Note: I'm fairly sure this didn't mean the same thing back then that it does now!*) Going to do something desperate if Miss Ruth wouldn't kiss him.

Allen Coronet Band - Uncle Bill beat bass drum.

Band played up and down Shore - Charles Vickers and P.A. Malone, leaders. Couldn't keep the band out of saloons until after parade. Parade cancelled. Jim Stewart couldn't find mouthpiece of horn. Vickers, disgusted, said "Ride straight through town."

*The following is apparently an outline of the book Mrs. Wilkins intended to write.*

The Village School

- The Schoolmaster
- Studies
- Books Used
- Discipline
- Friday Afternoon Speakings

The Church

- The ministers
- The Sunday School Superintendent
- Church Socials - winter and summer ones - fairs- taffy pulls
- Christmas Entertainment



**J. Walter Huffington,  
Maryland State Superintendent of Negro  
Schools**

The Allen Band: Prof. Peter A. Malone, director

The Allen Literary Society  
Books Read and Discussed  
Musical Programs  
Plays Produced

Watermelon Stealing  
Sitting up with the dead  
The village doctor  
Tragedies  
Gypsies at Jones' gate  
Skating on the pond  
The old swimming hole  
Camp meetings - trip to those all around  
Boat trips to Baltimore  
Sailboats  
Steamboats

Exciting days, such as June 28, 1878, when twins arrived at the Price home, and March xx, 1918, when the next ones to be born in Allen, arrived at the Messick home  
Legends  
The mill and the miller  
Trips to the county seat  
The lynching of Garfield King (*This event occurred on the court house lawn in Salisbury in 1898. Garfield King was a young African American man [18 years old!] from Allen, who was arrested for the slaying of a young white man at Twilley's store on the corner of Upper Ferry Road and Walnut Tree Road. Tragically, he never had the opportunity for his day in court. Your editor*

*researched and wrote an article on this tragic event, which was published in Shorelines, Vol. 15, No. 12, December, 2008. Shorelines is a publication of the Nabb Center at Salisbury University.)*

***Mrs. Wilkins did write an introduction for her book, which follows:***

On a quiet road just off U.S. highway 13, running through Maryland's Eastern Shore, lies a quaint village, Allen, formerly Upper Trappe. It is a village like thousands of other villages in these United States - the heart of the America of yesterday. Allen, Maryland was unique in that it had one schoolmaster, Levin B. Price, for thirty-three years. He dominated the intellectual life of the community, albeit he ruled his pupils with the rod.



**Levin B. (Squire) Price**

Out of that school came boys and girls who were to make their contributions to society in various ways, to give their lives in far-flung corners of the world in two World Wars; in the schoolhouse were taught a future member of the Maryland State Department of Education (*J. Walter Huffington was State Superintendent of Colored Schools for many years.*), a future Ph.D. and professor of math in several colleges (*possible Mr. Fred Messick*), a future D. D. (*Doctor of Divinity*) in the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Church, many lawyers and innumerable school teachers, among the latter my mother Kate Price Jones.



**Rev. Roscoe Jones, D.D.**

Today the village is almost deserted. (*Mrs. Wilkins was probably writing this in the early 1950s, and having grown up during that period, your editor believes that her statement here is exaggerated! After all, she had not lived in the village for many years, when she wrote those words.*)

Not so yesterday. For me it can never be deserted because there will ever be a little girl with black curls bobbing on her shoulders, roses glowing in her cheeks, and mischief sparkling in her twinkling hazel eyes, racing up and down the one road of the Village. There will always be a sober, black-haired, brown-eyed little boy, who had his hair slicked back on Fridays to speak "pieces" - poems - from America's popular poets of the day - - a little boy with a dream that he would help to make the world a better place for having gone through it. That little boy and that little girl grew up, fell in love and married in Asbury Methodist Church, South, on June 6, 1900, at the time when America was turning from an agrarian to an urban nation. Imbued with the spirit of democracy learned in their homes and in the school and church, they enriched the lives of their children, Ruth Jones Wilkins and Roscoe Phoebus Jones, and also the lives of people with whom they came in contact.

Kate Price and Roscoe Jones were from 1890 until 1921 members of the Asbury Methodist Church at Allen; consequently, only exceedingly bad weather kept them at home on an occasional Sunday night. Though as a child I hated rainy Sundays, there was always one compensation: Perhaps the rain would

get so bad that Mother and Daddy would stay home from church. It seems in retrospect that it was always on the rainy Sunday nights that I heard with wide eyes the stories I grew to know and love so well. Those stories revolved around my parents, my grandparents, my great-grandparents (one of whom I knew, Emaline Leonard Jones, an amazing woman)\*, and their families and friends. So vividly did my mother tell me of her father that it is hard for me to realize that he died seven years before my birth.

*\*(Editor's Note: The black, veiled mourning bonnet of Mrs. Jones is housed in the Passerdyke Cottage Museum. Her story is there is well, indicating that she lost so many family members that she wore the bonnet to church services for many years.)*

The home of my maternal grandparents dominated the north end of the village. It was demolished in 1962! (*That house stood directly across from the church. It was replaced by the Cape Cod style house that currently stands there.*) The home of my paternal grandparents, the south end. The east side of the village was bounded by a mill pond, the source of fun in the winter and ice cream in summer, because the ice was stored. There I learned to skate in 1912. To the west the farmland merged with the woods, always mysterious to a child. In the middle of the village stood the home of my maternal aunt, Beatrice Jones Malone (*now the home of the Prestilios*), a convenient and hospitable stopping off place on the way to and from school. Beyond the milldam were the homes of a great-aunt and of a great-uncle, into which I was always welcome. Children of today who hardly know grandparents, much less other relatives, do not know the old America, though they may have seen much of its vast lands. The American village with its schoolhouse, its church, its brass band, its Literary Society, its baseball team, its doctor, its women who nursed the sick and shrouded the dead for no remuneration, but for the love of God and neighbor is stored in the book of memories along with memories of the horse and buggy, the surrey "with the fringe on

top," nickle lamps, Japanese lanterns on the lawn for church fairs, ice cream dipped from freezers. I am glad that I can remember some of those things, for they are an expression of the American sung and loved by Walt Whitman. They were reflections of the rugged individualism of Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne. I am exceedingly grateful that my parents loved to tell me tales of their childhood and youth and that they were superb raconteurs.

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## **Freedom & Slavery in Somerset County, 1790-1860**

George Shivers

A short time ago I participated with member Aleta Davis in an interview program filmed to be shown on PAC 14 in Salisbury. The program focused on the history of Allen and the activities of the Allen Historical Society. You can view the program on You Tube at the web address below:

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=Allen+Historical+Society](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Allen+Historical+Society)

One of the questions posed by Aleta concerned whether there was a point prior to emancipation when there were more Free African Americans in our area than slaves. I didn't have an answer, but noted that my wife Jeanette Sherbondy had researched that for Kent County on the northern Eastern Shore and learned that by 1840 there were more Free African Americans there than slaves.

The question motivated me to research the census numbers for Somerset County (which during that period included what is now Wicomico County and, therefore, Allen. The statistics that follow are taken from the "Legacy of Slavery in Maryland" work done at the Maryland Hall of Records in Annapolis. The web address is as follows:

<http://slavery.msa.maryland.gov/>

1790: Total population: 15,610

All Other free persons: 268 (Refers to Free African Americans.)  
Slaves: 7070

1800: Total free persons: 9,926  
All other free persons: 586  
Slaves: 7,432

1810: Total free persons: 10,320  
All other free persons: 1,058  
Slaves: 6,975

1820: Total population: 19,579  
Male slaves: 3,876  
Female slaves: 3,365  
Total slaves: 7,341  
Free Black males: 912  
Free Black females: 1,042  
Total free Blacks: 1,954

1830: Total population: 20,166  
Male slaves: 3,550  
Female slaves: 3,006  
Total slaves: 6,556  
Free Black males: 1,051  
Free Black females: 1,188  
Total Free Blacks: 2,239

1840: Total population: 19,508  
Male slaves: 2,863  
Female slaves: 2,514  
Total slaves: 5,377  
Free Black males: 1,240  
Free Black females: 1,406  
Total free Blacks: 2,646

1850: Total population: 22,456  
Male slaves: 2,930  
Female slaves: 2,658  
Total slaves: 5,588  
Free Black males: 1,741  
Free Black females: 1,742  
Total free Blacks: 3,483

1860: Total population: 24,992  
Male slaves: 2,688  
Female slaves: 2,401  
Total slaves: 5,089  
Free Black males: 2,306  
Free Black females: 2,263  
Total free Blacks: 4,571

Total slaveholders: 747

In 1864 a new Maryland Constitution emancipated all slaves in the state. From these numbers we see that the total population of Somerset County increased steadily from 1790 until 1860 with the exception of a drop of slightly fewer than 700 persons in 1840. The number of slaves increased between 1790 and 1800, then decreased slightly by 1810, followed by a significant increase by 1820. From then on the number of slaves decreased steadily and the number of free African Americans increased proportionately. Never, however, prior to total emancipation was the number of free Blacks in Somerset County higher than the number of the enslaved, although it had become closer by 1860. In general the number of slaves remained significantly higher than the number of free Blacks throughout the period, in contrast with Kent County, where the number of free Blacks had outstripped the number of slaves significantly by 1840. It would be interesting to explore what may have been the reasons for this disparity. The only thing that comes to mind immediately is that there were significantly more Quakers in Kent County during this period, I believe, although I don't have the statistics to document it.

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### **Upper Trappe's African American Community in 1880**

The federal census of 1880 gives a clear picture of the significant size of the African American community in Upper Trappe. The census information was taken from Ancestry.com, accessed on February 10, 2017.

Nathan King, 41, Ann M. King 44, Alice T. 17, Alexander 16, Minerva 14, Scott W. 13 Louisa 11, Naoma 7, James U. 4

William Ellegood, 52, works on farm, wife Christina, 38, daughter Williamanna, 10 months. and Anne Jones, 22, niece, Fannie

Jones, 1, great-niece, Eben Furnace, step-son 20, Leah J. Brewington, stepdaughter, 14

William Dashiell, 43, farmer, and Esther Dashiell, 51; Henry Cottman 7, boarder

Columbus, 25, farmer, and Aurelia Davis, 20

Henry H. Black, 27, farmer, and Nancy E. Black, 27 and daughter Louella

Henry Collins, 60, farmer, and Nancy Collins, 60  
Morris Polk 70 - in the Collins household - works on farm  
Nicholas Gunby, 17 - works on farm. Also in Collins household.  
John Gale, 10 - works on farm. Also in Collins household.

Maranda Cottman 56 and daughter Sarah E. Dutton

George W. Bounds, 30, and Ann E. Bounds, 18, with sons William H., 3, and John W., 1

Daniel E. King, 37, sailor, and Mary E. King, 33 with daughters Eliza L. 16, Amanda L. 15, Mary E., 6 & Catherine J. 4

Rufus Fields, 68, timber hewer (cutter), and Sarah E. Fields 38, sons Noah, 16, Rufus W. 12, and daughters Leah B. 8, and Sarah E. 5

Levin R.K. Logan, 30, waiter at hotel, and Caroline A. Logan, 18, son Louis W. 5 months

John H. Hudson, 34, farmer, and Leah J. Hudson, 26, son J.W. E., 9, and daughters E.C., 7, J. Cora, 4, Ida M. 2

Aaron Gale, 51, farmer, and Eliza A. Gale, 36, daughters Susan E., 12 Shelly J. 6, Matilda A. 4, Ella M. 2

Leah J. Peters 70  
Harriet Fooks, 74, boarder with:

Joseph F. Whiting, 28, and Leah J. 6  
Whiting, 26, daughter and son-in-law of Harriet Fooks  
Thomas J. Whiting, grandson, William G. Peters, grandson

William H. Brewington, 24, farmer and Leah J. Brewington, 25, with Eliza J. Griffin, 9, cousin

George F. Brewington, 41, farm hand and Martha A. Brewington, 35, with sons John H. 19, Josephus, 16, George W., 8, Alex W. 3, Perry W., 9 months, and daughters Margaret, 17, Hester A, 10, Betty J., 14

Wesley Brewington, 39, farmer, and Esther Brewington, 41, with Sally A., 17, Elenora, 16, nurse, Mary, 12, (works on farm), Martha 12, (works on farm), Amelia F., 9, Wm. E. 7, Ida 5. and Ruth Furniss, 70, mother-in-law, Caleb Dutton, son-in-law (works on farm) and James Johnson, 18, boarder

John Waters, 40, works on farm, and wife Mary A., 35, sons James W., 15, works on farm, and John W. 9, and daughters Isabella 12, May Lee, 5 months

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### Civil War Veterans from Upper Trappe

Since the Allen Historical Society will be presenting its Civil War Heritage Day this spring, it seems appropriate to highlight a few of the soldiers from this community who served in that War. (Information accessed on Ancestry.com.)

Arthur King served in Company I, 7th Regiment of the United States Colored Troops. At enlistment he was 24 years old and 5'5 1/2" in height. He was a farmer. He enlisted on October 26, 1863 for 3 years and was mustered in at Camp Staunton, MD on November 5. He was promoted to corporal on December 30, 1863, but returned to private on January 3, 1865.

Henry Cottman served in the same company and regiment as Arthur King. He was 20 years old at the time of his enlistment and was also 5'5 1/2" in height. He enlisted on October 22, 1863 and mustered on November 5 at Camp Staunton. He was wounded and sent to the hospital on October 28, 1864. He was discharged on June 18, 1865.

The following persons from Trappe District were drafted in a draft lottery held in Princess Anne on November 13, 1862, as reported in an Extra Edition of the local newspaper, the *Herald*. All were white, since African Americans were unable to serve until after January of 1863.

William Ellegood served in Company H, 9th Regiment, United States Colored Troops from 1863 until 1866.

Thomas J. Brown served in Company B, 30th Regiment, United States Colored Troops from 1864 until 1866.

Wesley Brewington served in Company H, 10th Regiment, United States Colored Troops for one year, 1865-1865.

(The information for the three men above are from a census of Union veterans and their widows taken in 1890: *Enumeration of Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War*.)

John Goslee (buried in Asbury Cemetery)  
William Collins

James Jones - He appears in the U.S. Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863-1865, as 23 years old on July 1, 1863, therefore born about 1840. He was married at the time. I was unable to search out any further military records for Mr. Jones, simply because of the sheer number of men by that name in the Ancestry.com military data bank.

Perry Fields - According to the draft registration records, he was 25 on July 3, 1863, and married.

Phillip Mezick (buried in Asbury Cemetery)

Robert Townsend (I found draft registration records for two men by this name, one a farmer, age 23 and single; the second age 21 and also single.)

William Malone (Draft Registration record: age 25, born about 1838, single.)

Japhet Fields  
George Isham  
David Fields  
George Bounds  
Samuel Jones  
William Griffith  
John Disharoon  
H. Crockett

Wesley Kibble (Draft Registration record: age 23, born about 1840, white, single)  
Wesley Kibble also is listed in the 1860 Federal Census, age 18, born abt. 1842, Upper Trappe P.O. In the Kibble household were Elizabeth Kibble, 24; George Kibble, 22; Samuel Kibble, 15 and Clara Washburn, 15. In 1870 he was 27, married to Eliza Kibble, 27, with sons Albert M., 3, and Wm. O. Kibble (7 months). By 1900 he was living in Salisbury and married to Annie L. Kibble.

William Bounds (Draft Registration record, age 25, born abt. 1838, married). He may have been the son of Richard S. and Elizabeth Bounds, who are buried in the Asbury Cemetery, but I can't confirm.

George Brewington  
Samuel Morriss

Robert Porter (buried in Asbury Cemetery).  
Draft Registration record: age 23, born about 1840, white, single

William Murrill

John Riggin - A John H. Riggin served in Company K of the 1st Regiment, Maryland Eastern Shore Infantry as a Private.

Isaac Dryden



John Malone (photograph in Passerdyke Museum) (Draft Registration record: age 23, born about 1840, White).

William J. Whayland  
Wes Jenkins

Richard Fields (Draft Registration record, age 20, born about 1843, White, single)

Charles Crouch

William H. Hitch - He appears in U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865 as a Private in the Union Army, 8th Regiment, Maryland Infantry, Company I.

Unfortunately I was unable to discover very much information regarding the military service of most of these men; however, searching on Ancestry.com is at best a tedious process and very time consuming, since many have thousands of listings under the same name.

No doubt the best known of Upper Trappe's Civil War veterans was John Huffington, although he grew up in what is now Mardela and lived there at the time he went south to join the Confederate Army. After the war he married Caroline Hayman and set up his blacksmithing business in Upper Trappe in the house where the Prestilios now live. John Huffington was born in 1839. He enlisted in Company F, Second Maryland Regiment of the Army of the Confederacy and served from 1862 until 1865 and was wounded slightly at Gettysburg, where according to his published obituary, his regiment made "a desperate charge on Culp's Hill and lost over half its members." He was wounded more seriously in the trenches around and Petersburg, VA. on April 1, 1865.



**John Huffington**



**Home of John and Caroline Huffington in Allen**

**We welcome those members who have renewed their membership for 2017! We hope that those of you who may not have will continue to support us.**

**Single Membership: \$15**  
**Family Membership: \$20**  
**Patron Membership: \$40**  
**Sustaining Membership: \$250**