

# THE ALLEN HISTORIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 31, Allen, MD 21810

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VOLUME 13, NO. 1

March, 2007

George Shivers, Editor

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## Community Events

Saturday, March 10 Friendship United Methodist Women's Fish Fry.

March 16 & 17 Annual Friendship United Methodist Church Choir Anniversary. 7:00pm each evening.

Saturday, March 24, Allen Lions Club, "All You Can Eat" Chicken and Dumpling dinner at the Allen Community Hall. Fundraiser for Community Hall Remodeling Fund.

Spring meeting of the Allen Historical Society, Sunday, March 25, 2:00pm at Asbury United Methodist Church, Great Room. We will do the final planning for the May 12 bus tour, discuss our fundraising truck raffle, as well as plans for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, and other programming ideas for the summer and fall.

Saturday, March 31, 10:00am - 2:00pm. Asbury United Methodist Church Bazaar at the Allen Community Hall.

Saturday, March 31. "Good Stuff" Yard Sale at the Allen Volunteer Fire Co. Post Office Road and Upper Ferry Road. Beginning at 9:00am.

April 22 Friendship United Methodist Church Women's Day, 10:00am

Sunday, May 6. United Methodist Women, Asbury United Methodist

Church, Annual Tea Party. Allen Community Hall. Contact Melissa Bright for time and other information.

Saturday, May 12. 10:00am- 3:00pm The second Allen Historical Society Bus Tour. Learn more about the history of the village and the area. Lunch at Asbury United Methodist Church included in the cost of the tour. Tickets: \$25. Contact Melissa Bright for information: 410-742-4085 or go to the Allen Historical Society webpage at:

[allenhistoricalsociety.org](http://allenhistoricalsociety.org).

Tour will be narrated by Melissa Bright in full colonial garb!

July 4 - Allen's annual Independence Day parade and celebration. Parade begins in front of Friendship United Methodist Church and ends at the Allen Community Hall on Collins Wharf Road. Food, including homemade ice cream available at the Community Hall. This year the celebration will include the official drawing for the truck raffle of the Allen Historical Society. (See below.)

August 5 Friendship United Methodist Church Day in the Park

August 25 Friendship United Methodist Women's Picnic

## Black History Month and Women's History Month Observations

Friendship United Methodist Church in Allen celebrated Black History Month in February by honoring the following distinguished African Americans: Mike Tomlin, the first Black head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers; Luther Vandross, one of the most significant vocalists of our time, Thomas Elzey Polk, Sr., Allen's Buffalo Soldier, and Mary McLeod Bethune, a famous educator.

During March the Friendship congregation is celebrating Women's History Month by honoring Mrs. Alice Polk, a long-time member of the congregation and dedicated church worker; and Mrs. Agnes Hull, a former teacher at the Allen School.

## Truck Raffle Fundraiser

Thanks to the suggestion and the organizing groundwork of Society member Sylvia McEntegart, the Allen Historical Society has embarked on a major new fundraising effort. This spring we will be selling raffle tickets for a new Ford pickup truck. Our goal is to sell 2000 tickets at \$50 each. They are being made available across the country thanks to an advertisement placed in a nationally distributed truckers' magazine. Tickets may be purchased by mailing a check (made out to the Allen Historical Society, Inc.) to the Society's P.O. Box or by going to our website ([allenhistoricalsociety.org](http://allenhistoricalsociety.org)) and using Pay Pal to make a credit card payment. Ticket orders must be postmarked no

later than June 14, 2007. Raffle tickets will be mailed to purchasers. The drawing will take place on July 4 as part of Allen's annual Independence Day celebration. If we sell fewer than 1000 tickets, the raffle will be 50/50 rather than the truck, that is the winning ticket holder will receive 50% of the income from the raffle. This is a major fundraising effort on the part of the Society and it is our hope that it will contribute not only to allowing us to pay off the mortgage on Passerdyke Cottage but also to contribute to other community needs.

### WIN THIS TRUCK



**Ford F-150 4DR  
Short Bed Pickup**  
V8 XLT  
Prize includes  
State Sales Tax & Tags

Tickets \$50 • Only 2,000 to be SOLD.  
(If less than 1000 tickets are sold, the raffle will become a 50/50)

Ticket orders must be postmarked by June 14, 2007  
Drawing is July 4, 2007

Winner to take delivery at his/her local Ford dealership  
Raffle benefits the Allen Historical Society in Allen, MD

Name _____	Mail to: _____
Address _____	Allen Historical Society
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____	P.O. Box 31
Phone _____	Allen, MD 21810-0031
No. of chances _____	410-742-4085

[allenhistoricalsociety.org](http://allenhistoricalsociety.org)  
 Pay by check or money order made out to  
 Allen Historical Society, or through Pay Pal on our website  
[www.allenhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.allenhistoricalsociety.org)

PayPal

## Second Allen Historical Society Bus Tour

After conducting a very successful bus tour of the village and surrounding area in October, 2005, the Society has decided to repeat the effort this spring. The event will take place on Saturday, May 12, beginning at 10:00am and ending at about 3:00pm. The United Methodist Women of Asbury Methodist Church will prepare a bag lunch to be served on the premises. Refreshments will be available at the end of the tour at

Friendship United Methodist Church. The stop at Friendship will include a display devoted to the Thomas Elzey Polk Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers. Thomas Elzey Polk was a member of the Buffalo soldiers who fought in the Indian Wars on the western frontier of the United States during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Mr. Polk was born and raised in Allen and returned here after completing his military service. Tickets for the tour (including lunch) are being sold at \$25. They should be purchased in advance by sending your checks to the Society's P.O. Box. Checks should be made out to the Allen Historical Society, Inc. The tour will begin at the Allen Community Hall on Collins Wharf Road.

## **The Village Post Office**

### **George Shivers**

(The information for this article is from the Record of Appointments of Postmasters, National Archives Microfilm Publications, vols. 15, 24, 43, 56 and 62, found in the Edward Nabb Center for Research on Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University.)

The earliest record of a postal appointment in what is now the village of Allen (that I have been able to find) is recorded in Volume 15 of the

appointment records (covering the period from 1843 - 1857). It is an interesting document for another reason as well, for it states that Thomas W. Dashiell was appointed to be postmaster at Brereton on August 25, 1849. In the margin it states "to Upper Trappe," and that appointment was made on December 10, 1849. This is the first document I have seen that records the earlier name of our village as Brereton! Thomas W. Dashiell had a store at the lower end of the village, where Whayland's store was later located. It seems likely that the post office was located there at the mid-point of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It also appears that there had not been a post office in the village prior to 1849, since I also found no earlier reference to an appointment in Brereton. On March 12, 1857 Jesse Huffington, my great-grandfather and the youngest son of Jonathan Huffington, Jr., was appointed as postmaster (vol. 15). The next recorded appointment was that of Columbus J. Gillis on June

21, 1867. It is noted there that he was moved to the Eden Post Office on December 6, 1875 (vol. 24). In the meantime, Wicomico County had been created in 1867, so that all further appointments to Upper Trappe/Allen are listed with the new county. Albert H. Huffington was appointed on July 3, 1882 or 1883 (the year was illegible) (vol. 43). Then on January 30, 1884 Joseph S. C. Allen was appointed the new postmaster, and it was in his honor that, as we know, the name of the village of Upper Trappe was changed to Allen in that same year (vol. 43). Eight years later, on January 9, 1892, Simeon F. Malone became postmaster in the village. He and Joseph S.C. Allen then alternated in the post for the period from then until 1924. Mr. Allen was appointed again on January 28, 1896 and Mr. Malone on April 3, 1900 (vol. 62).

Herschel Wallace became postmaster on June 19, 1924 and served in that position until his death on August 1,

1947. He was followed by Miss Lula Nichols, whose appointment is recorded on September 12, 1947. Miss Nichols retired twenty years later, and Mrs. Mary Lee Kolb was appointed first on September 23, 1967 and then the appointment was confirmed on October 2, 1968.

### **The Community of Loretto**

George Shivers

Loretto was the name once given to the community which stood along the road between Allen and Princess Anne, only a few miles from Allen. The area was also often referred to in the past as Head of the Creek, referring to Wicomico Creek. The community was named after Judge Lore, who owned property in the area (as well as in Allen) and who, before becoming judge, was a Methodist minister who had briefly served Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church in Allen (then Upper Trappe). Goddard's Chapel, a Chapel-of-Ease for Stepney Parish of the Anglican Church had once served the area in the 18th century, until in 1769 it was removed to Salisbury and eventually became St. Peter's Episcopal Parish. Also in the 18th century Eaton or Eden Academy, an educational institution for the sons of the local gentry was located in the area. The Academy had ceased to operate by 1805, when the property is recorded as having been sold. Later in the 19th century, however, there would be a one-room public school in the community of Loretto. The area was also important during the era of railroad transportation in the second half of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th. Loretto Station was a train stop for

both passenger and freight service throughout that period.

By the late 19th century there was a post office in Loretto. William T. Porter was appointed on March 27, 1882 (Record of Appointments of Postmasters, Vol. 62, ca. 1888-1930. National Archives Publications). He was succeeded by Twilley C. Porter, appointed on February 3, 1896. Apparently the site of the post office was changed with the change in appointment, for Twilley C. Porter filed an application for establishment of a post office on January 18, 1896. In the application he wrote that the proposed office would be at Head of the Creek, 1 ½ miles from Loretto Station and that it would serve a population of 300 (Record of Postal Sites, National Archives Publications). By 1930 the post office at Loretto must have been closed, as there is no reference to it in vol. 30 of the Record of Appointments between 1930 and 1971.

### **Courtship in Upper Trappe (1865)**

Nine years ago in March of 1998 the *Allen Historian* published letters submitted by Mrs. Florence Byrd Allen Cooper and written by Albert James Allen to Elizabeth Ellen Twilley during their courtship in Allen. Florence Byrd recently asked this editor to transcribe the remaining letters, which I have now completed and the Society has the entire collection in its archives at Passerdyke Cottage. I am including below the text of a few more of these documents which tell us a great deal about life in the village and in particular the ups and downs of courtship and love in all times! I have preserved the idiosyncracies of Mr. Allen's spelling

November 24, 1865

My verry dear Lizzie,

I received with much joy your verry kind letter on last Thursday night. I am verry glad that you are willing to marry me, for, Miss Lizzie, I shall be so happy with you. I am happy now because I know that you love me. But, Miss Lizzie, you do not love me any better than I do you. No! You cannot for I love you with all my heart. I love you better now since we are engaged. Because I can claim you as mine, I can talk to you more freely.

May the time soon arrive when we shall be united together. Trust me, Miss Lizzie, I will never forsake you. No, I will be faithful to my engagement when you say marry. I am ready. Let it be soon or late. I will never let you suffer for nothing as long as I live. What I make shall be for your comfort and enjoyment. I will always ask your advice in anything that I do of any consequence. What I say shall not be the only proof that I love you. Than what I say kindness, Miss Lizzie, will do more toward proving to you my love and constancy than what I say. You know that I love you with all my heart. You say that you rather I would not ask your Father and Mother soon. I will not do so yet a while. But, Miss Lizzie, they must know that I love you. Whenever you are ready for me to ask them you must let me know it. Then I will give you the money to get what you want. I will give you the Presant as soon as I can get a chance to get it for you. It will be an engagement ring. Miss Lizzie, can you not fit some way for us to have a talk to ourselves sometime. Then we will understand each other better than by writing. I have much to tell you personally when we have a chance.

Nothing more at present, But still remain  
your affectionate lover,

December 4, 1865

Dear Lizzie,

I again seat myself for the purpose of answering your kind letter which I received with much joy on last Sunday afternoon. I have been truly happy for the last week or two and more. So when I think of our engagement, I love to think of the time, Miss Lizzie, when we shall be united together for then I know that I shall be supremely happy because I love you better than anyone else on earth. There is not an hour in the day but what I think of you. No, dear one, my pen cannot describe nor my tongue express the love and tenderness which is in my heart for you. I sometimes think that if you only knew how much I thought of you, you would be astonished. Wife Lizzie, it is my pride to think that at some future time I shall always have you with me to love and to protect. Yes, I am willing to bear all the pain and let you have all the bliss so that you may be happy. Wife Lizzie, your happiness is all that I desire. If you are happy, I shall be happy also.

Wife Lizzie, I wish to ask you a question. You say that you do not wish to marry yet. I wish to know how long you wish to put it off. I mean to say what month shall we marry. I do not mean any particular day for that we can decide afterward. Shall it be January, February, March, April, May, etc. It will be a great advantage for me to know if you can passibly decide, for several reasons which I will make known to you some other time. But one reason I will tell you now so that you will see the necessity of appointing a time. You

know, Miss Lizzie, that if you appoint a time, I can be governed by that time when to ask your Father and Mother. If you can decide upon any time, it will relieve me perhaps of much trouble. But if you cannot it will make no difference. You must not think that I wish to hurry you for such is not the case. I want you to have your own time to get ready. You know that I would not wish you to do anything against your will. I love you too well for that. I enjoyed our walk the other night very much. You must pardon me for kissing your hand for I could not help it. It is a pleasure for me to kiss my one I love.

You say that your love for me will never fail. No, I hope that it will not, for if it should I should be miserable. I know that you are constant and your love is unchangeable.

Nothing more at present. But still remain your affectionate lover.

Albert J. Allen

Excuse my bad writing for I have written this in a great hurry for it is now past bed time.

December 17, 1865

Dear Lizzie,

I seat myself again for the purpose of answering your interesting letter which I received on last Friday night with much gratification. I am very glad that you think that you are as happy as I am for nothing gives me more pleasure than for you to be happy. You say that you love to think of me. As for myself, I will say that my thoughts always refer to you. Indeed, if I tell the

truth, I can think of nothing else but you and how to please you. I often think of your welfare. How I would love to be with you always. Wife Lizzie, you must not think hard of me for going to see you so often, for really I cannot help it. I love to be with you so well. You say that you are willing to bear half of the pain. No, I will bear it all if I can. I will be happy to do so, happy to see you free from all pain and sorrow too. You say that you love me dearly. I know that you do. That is what makes me so happy. That is why I would suffer for your comfort and happiness.

How sweet it is to have some one to love, honor and respect above all others. If you are faithful, I will never forsake you. You will always find me true to my promise. You say that you wish to put off getting married till next October. I will say to you that that is rather longer than I expected you to put it off. Wife Lizzie, why not marry a little sooner than that? You know I love you and that it is hard to be without you so long. Can we not marry a little sooner than that without any impropriety. I think we can. But I wish you to have your own way. I do not wish to dissatisfy you. No, not at all. If you say marry a little sooner, it will be all right. If not, it will be all right. I am willing to do anything to please you. I only ask you if you are willing to marry a little sooner. Nothing more at present. Bad writing for my hand is sore and I cannot write good.

Your faithful lover

J. A. Allen

Excuse the quality of my paper. Oblige.

December 29, 1865

Dear Lizzie,

I received your kind letter on Christmas night. I was overjoyed to think that you had not forgotten me, although I was not well, yet I was happy. Yes, Wife Lizzie, I was very unwell and that was the reason I left so soon. I do not expect you to answer my letters as soon as I do yours for I know that it is not always convenient with you. I would not think hard of you if you were not to answer my letters at all.

You say that you are glad to see me when I go. I hope that you are for I would be glad to see you every day if I could. I am always glad to see you for I would not give you for all the Lady's (sic). I even say for them all together. One hour with you is dearer than a hundred with anyone else. You promise me to be faithful as long as you live. That is all I could ask of you. But I know not how to repay you for your faithful promise. I am not worthy of your love. But I will suffer death for your comfort and welfare. That is all I can do. If that will pay you, I am willing to do that much. All I desire in the world is to see you happy. If I can make you happy, I shall be happy myself. You wish to know how much sooner I wish for us to marry. I think it would be to our advantage to marry next May. For this reason. If you wish to go to housekeeping year after next, we ought to have some five or six months to make preparations for it. I would like for us to fit up as neat as we can. There will be a good many things we shall need which I could not get unless you were with me to see to it. Then I should know that everything would be right. I would be so happy to have you with me to see to fixing up, etc. etc. We will

want canned fruit and preserves and all these things. Unless we marry sooner, the fruit season will be over and we will have nothing of the kind because I should have no one to attend to such matters. I shall want to go to Baltimore next summer and I want you to go with me. I think we can enjoy ourselves better married next summer than single. Don't you think so? Because we can be together all the time then. But if you do not wish to marry next May, do not let me insist on you to do so, for I want you to be satisfied. No, Miss Lizzie, I do not wish to marry then unless you are willing to do so. If you rather put it off longer, I will not think hard of you, if you rather do so. So it is just as you say now when we marry. But I wish to know what you think about it. Nothing more.

Your faithful lover,

J. A. Allen

NB. I understand that a young gentleman said that he was going to cut me out. What do you think of it. I hope not anyhow.

Sat. night, Dec. 30, 1865

Dear Lizzie,

I write to inform you that I suppose we will have to postpone our ride to Salisbury until some other time, as I have understood that there will be no preaching in any of the churches until Sunday night. I really did not think to tell you last night. But I hope that it will be no disappointment however. I enquired if there would be any preaching when I went to Salisbury last Friday. The folks said there would not be any till

Sunday night. I thought to tell you last night but I forgot it. Please do not think hard of me.

Wife Lizzie, whenever you wish to go to Quantico, I will carry you any time. I will be glad to do so for nothing would give me more pleasure. That is if you have no objections to my doing so. I will be glad to carry you any where you want to go anytime, if you will let me know it. I am always ready and willing to do anything for you that I can. Yes, Miss Lizzie, I am willing to do anything for you that will give you pleasure, for such is my duty. I feel that I am responsible for your comfort and welfare. Because I have willingly pledged you my heart and hand forever. I would not give you for all the world. I hope that you will never think that I do not love you, for I do. I love to tell you of it. When you go away from home where I cannot get to see you, you must not forget me. Always think how well I love you and how I wish myself with you. Remember that though I am absent yet my heart is with you. No, Miss Lizzie, I will never forget our engagement. But will be true to it as the sun rises and sets.

You must not think that I enjoy any other Ladys company better than yours for I do not. I cannot enjoy any ladys but yours and never will as long as you live. When you are gone I will enjoy the thoughts of the past.

At the midnight hour I love to think  
Of Lizzie most precious to me  
And memory often at that hour  
Gladly wings its flight to thee.

I would not that my form should rise

Before thee in the hours of glee  
But when thou dost think on friends  
sincere

O Lizzie, then think of me.

Nothing more at present. But still remain your faithful love,

Jimmie

N.B.

Many thanks to you for the Present which I received last Fryday night.

A.J. Allen

### **Reminiscences from Afar**

The editor recently received a very nice note from one of his Huffington cousins, Dorothy Mae Ward Huffington. Dorothy Mae makes her home in Florida, but spent a great deal of her childhood and youth on her grandparents farm near Allen. Her grandparents were Jonathan and Rosa Parker Huffington. In her correspondence she wrote of her memories of her grandparents, aunts and uncles. I thought it would be of interest to our members to hear her story too. What follows is from her hand.

My name is Dorothy Mae Ward Huffington. My father was Andrew M. Ward, a World War II Army vet. He was wounded and my mother Linda Rose Huffington was his nurse in Cambridge, Maryland. He was Irish and Apache Indian and a devout Catholic. They fell in love and got married. They didn't think they could have children, since my father had a serious stomach wound. He had been shot in the stomach. Surprise! Dorothy Mae was conceived and born two months early on Jan. 2, 1939. Grandfather Jonathan Huffington, Uncle Drexel and Aunt Maiblume saved my life. My mother

was very ill and couldn't take care of me. In those days Premies didn't survive. Grandfather and Uncle Drexel came to the hospital and took me home in a hat box lined with rabbit fur. Aunt Maiblume had a nanny waiting to breast feed me. I weighed 4 lbs. and was 16 inches long. The nanny stayed in the house and Grandfather put her breast milk in my mouth with an eyedropper. I was named Dorothy for Aunt Dorothy Huffington and became "the gift from God" for Aunt Maiblume, Aunt Dorothy and Uncle Drexel since they couldn't have children. Uncle Drexel and Aunt Maiblume ran the farm and saved the money and helped me do my homework and taught me how to survive. I have a degree in Liberal Studies and worked as a model, as a statistician for the Martin Company, and at the University of Central Florida. I've also worked for Orange County Schools, for the Fire Department and for the Orange County Sheriff's Department. I was married and raised 5 children, then divorced and married a wonderful man, Sgt. Frederick Calvin Clugston, a Vietnam Vet in the U.S. Air Force. He was of Cherokee Indian and German descent.

It took a whole village to raise Dorothy Mae. I have made it to 68 years old, have 5 wonderful children, 9 beautiful grandchildren. I am now retired doing Folk Art and Photography exhibits and helping the Native American people on the reservation. I have continued with my husband Frederick Clugston's work for Vietnam Vets, helping them in any way I can. My daughter Theresa and sons Daniel and Joseph are very talented. They are all artistic. Joseph looks a lot like Grandfather Jonathan Huffington. Joseph lives in California. He is an artist and a movie director. I want him to do a movie about Allen, MD. I have sent him

everything. He was an Army Airborne Ranger and has a History degree from the University of Central Florida.

I have many funny stories about being on the farm. Here is one. Uncle Drexel put me in the outhouse when I was 3. I locked the door and I fell through the hole down under the outhouse! I was screaming like a banshee. He cut a hole in the door to get it off and then climbed in and got me - all covered with you-know-what- out of the hole. We were both a mess! Grandpa laughed his head off. He threw buckets of soapy water on us. Aunt Maiblume couldn't stop laughing.

Uncle Drexel told everyone I was his daughter. He had an egg and vegetable route and I went with him. He had many girlfriends. I went to a lot of widows' houses and they always gave him food - cookies, cakes, pies, etc. He treated me like a baby daughter and spoiled me rotten.

### **Colonial Shipbuilding on Wicomico Creek**

(Editor's Note: I received the following email from Jason Moser, who introduces himself in the first part of the message. As he mentions, this was not the first time we had corresponded. Some of the names he mentions in his account were familiar to me and I have sent him whatever information I was able to pull out from my own research. I'm sure, however, that his research will be of interest to our members and perhaps some of you have information that may prove helpful to him. If so, I hope you will contact him. Mr. Moser has given me his permission to reproduce his message to me in this newsletter. I am

grateful for the interesting work he is doing. His research contains a wealth of information about an area of local life during the colonial period and the 19<sup>th</sup> century about which we have known too little up till now.)

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My name is Jason Moser and I am a graduate student working on my doctoral research at Florida State University. I am researching the archaeology and history of shipbuilding in the Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester county area. I spoke to Mr. Shivers almost two years ago about my project. At that time he helped me with some suggestions. I have now completed additional research and wanted to try to find out if the Allen Historical Society or its members have conducted any research that might overlap my own research in the area.

I have put together a short synopsis of the results of my research and archaeology fieldwork for your files and to see if you have any information on some of the individuals reported here. Most of this research was conducted because I identified a large very interesting shipyard that is located on Wicomico Creek. In addition to the shipyard, I have found several historical references describing shipbuilding along Wicomico Creek. During my archaeological investigations of the shipyard on Wicomico Creek, we sampled some of the timbers on the site to retrieve tree-ring cores from the site. We determined that this shipyard was constructed c. 1790s and it continued in operation until the early nineteenth century. Based on Benson's tract map of Eastern Shore Patents, and a title search of the property the shipyard was

located on one of several tracts on the south side of Wicomico Creek.

In December 1810 Dr. Charles Nutter sold to Daniel Whitney, shipwright, 558 acres of Young Tinson, Tonys Vineyard, Johns Desire and Adams Discovery. These properties came into Dr. Nutter's possession through his wife Louisa Nutter. Louisa Nutter received the property from her first husband's estate. In addition to these properties Daniel Whitney patented a small nearby property called Ladrieths Disappointment in 1815.

I believe that the shipyard I found was operated by a shipwright named Daniel Whitney. I have relatively little information about Daniel Whitney and most of it has been provided by other individuals who have helped me. Daniel Whitney was one of 16 children of Thomas Whitney (died Dec 25, 1796, Somerset County Wills, EB 17,f-575). Thomas Whitney owned several pieces of property in the West Princess Anne Election District a.k.a. Hungry Neck). Daniel Whitney was born on September 3, 1777, and died on April 3, 1827 at the age of 51. Daniel married Sally Harris on Jan 15, 1811. He had at least one daughter named Elizabeth Susan Whitney who was born on March 12, 1812. Elizabeth Susan Whitney married William Massey Tull on July 10, 1833. Whitney is documented as building a number of very large several hundred ton ocean-going vessels. He built several vessels on Wicomico Creek, one at "the Lower Ferry" on the Wicomico and one at Princess Anne. Whitney had at least three known apprentices that were recorded by the County Court.

These apprentices are as follows:  
Thomas Burgin (bound January 1811)

Charles Jackson (bound 1816)  
Daniel B. McGrath (bound 1816)

I have less evidence about several other shipwrights and/or wealthy merchants and planters that owned or operated shipyards. One of the individuals involved was named John Adams. The following newspaper advertisement appeared in 1777.

"To be Sold: A fine vessel ; now on the stocks, in Somerset County, on Wycomico Creek, and will be launched in six weeks 44 feet keel, 19 beam 7 1/2 in the hold, 3 feet 7 inches between decks compleately built, new frame all of mulberry and red cedar, except her floor runners and lower futtocks. Any person inclinable to purches the said vessel may know th terms, by applying to the subscriber August 21, 1777 John Adams"

Adams seems to have been at least peripherally involved in shipbuilding in the area. Another Adams that was involved in this area was Louisa Adams who was the wife of Dr. Charles Nutter (Of Nutter's Neck). Louisa Adams was the daughter of Alexander Adams, Jr. and the widow of William Adams (who was the son of John Adams and Sarah Piper). She inherited the property on which the shipyard that I found was located. She and her husband Dr. Charles Nutter then sold the property to the shipwright Daniel Whitney. Dr. Charles Nutter is listed as being heavily involved with Daniel Whitney's shipbuilding operations.

Another shipbuilder along Wicomico Creek was named Henry Lowes. Two eighteenth century newspaper ads indcate that several vessels were launched at "Chatham" on Wicomico

Creek. The first is from Henry Lowes and is dated 1766:

"Somerset County, July 5, 1766, to be sold or chartered, A Snow burthen 184 tons, now on the stocks, will be launched and completely fitted in 5 weeks from the date hereof. Any person inclined to purchase, or charter, may view the vessel, and know the terms of sale, or charter, by applying to Henry Lowes and Company."

Can you help me find information about shipbuilding in the area along Wicomico Creek between Whitehaven and Allen? I am specifically interested in more information about the shipwrights named Daniel Whitney, Henry Lowes, Tubman Lowes, and Dr. Charles Nutter.

I know Adams' were heavily involved in the town of Allen. Has anyone at your historical society completed any type of detailed study of the family and its business interests?

Finally, I have heard that there was a shipyard on Passerdyke Creek. Has anybody else from the Allen Historical Society heard of this? It would have been before the creek was impounded by mill dams or the shipyard would have to have been located below the dam. I am very interested in sharing information with individuals to help better understand the maritime history of the area and I would be happy to share what I know with interested parties. I would appreciate any information that you might have about this topic.

Sources: David Nutter ( a descendant of Dr. Charles Nutter), Jeff Whatfield. and Emalu Myer Simpson. "I've corresponded with these people via the internet and we share ideas and research

about the families and the history of the area. A researcher named John Lyon has also contributed a lot of data including detailed tract maps for this project."

Editor's Note: Mr. Moser can be reached at the following email addresses:

[jmoser@smeinc.com](mailto:jmoser@smeinc.com)  
[jdmarch1@aol.com](mailto:jdmarch1@aol.com)

His mailing address is:

Jason Moser, 280 Wild Olive Drive,  
Columbia, SC 29229

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**Individual: \$10**  
**Family: \$15**  
**Patron: \$35**  
**Sustaining: \$250**

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