

## GUIDE TO THE ALLEN FAMILY PAPERS

### Scope and Content Note:

The Allen Family Papers, received by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association from many sources, consist of original manuscripts of the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries written by or addressed to Edward Allyn, weaver, and his descendants; reproductions of similar manuscripts in other locations; genealogical notes; and correspondence of George Sheldon and others relating to the Allen family. Recent donations have come from Judith Lawrence, Joan Faust, and William Hubbard. The numbers in superscript following some of the names in this guide are those assigned to individuals by George Sheldon in the Allen genealogy in the 2nd volume of his *History of Deerfield* (1895); the following biographical notes are largely based on that source.

### Biographical Notes and Description of Manuscripts:

**Edward Allen**<sup>1</sup> was a weaver in Ipswich, Mass. He married Sarah, daughter of Richard Kimball of Ipswich, in 1658. In 1662 they occupied a farm there, owned by the Reverend John Norton of Boston. In 1678, Edward received a grant of 60 acres of land in Suffield, Ct., and moved there about that time. He died there on November 21, 1696; his wife in June 1696. They appear to have been survived by ten of their 13 children.

He is represented by his will, signed (by mark) "Edward Allyn, sen.<sup>r</sup>" dated November 19, 1696. It is accompanied by an inventory of his estate, prepared by his sons Benjamin and David, December 17, 1696 (The main provisions of this will and the text of the inventory of Allen's estate are included in the second volume of Sheldon's *History of Deerfield*, part II, pp. 8-9).

**John Allen**<sup>9</sup>, son of John<sup>2</sup> and Elizabeth (Prichard) Allen, and grandson of Edward Allen<sup>1</sup>, was born in 1684. He was an early settler in Greenfield, Mass. In 1716 he married Elizabeth Severance and the couple had fourteen children. John died in 1761, his widow in 1770.

He is represented by an account with William Williams, 1750-51; and was signatory with his uncle, Edward Allen,<sup>3</sup> to a bond (described below) as an administrator of his father's estate, 1705.

**Edward Allen**<sup>3</sup>, second son of Edward<sup>1</sup> and Sarah (Kimball) Allen, was born in Ipswich, Mass., in 1663. He went to Suffield, Ct., in 1678 and received a grant of 40 acres of land. In 1683 he married Mercy Painter, whose mother was a Lamberton of New Haven, Ct. The couple had nine children. Edward was prominent in town affairs, serving as town clerk and as clerk of the market. He died in 1740.

His papers consist of a bond to Samuel Partridge, judge of probate, co-signed by him and his nephew, John Allen<sup>9</sup>, to provide a true inventory of his brother John's estate, 1705; an inventory of the estate, and an account of debts he paid for his brother, 1708/9.

**Edward Allen**<sup>11</sup>, son of Edward<sup>3</sup> and Mercy (Painter) Allen, was born in 1688. In February 1720 he married Martha, daughter of Ebenezer Wells of Hatfield, Mass. She died later that year, and in 1722 he married Mercy Childs of Barnstable, Mass. He was an inn holder from

1723 to 1729. About 1749 he moved to Greenfield, Mass., where he died in 1756; his widow died in 1758.

His papers consist of plats to two tracts of land east of Green River, surveyed by John Catlin in August 1736.

**Silvanus Allen**<sup>30</sup>, son of Amos<sup>18</sup> and Rebecca (Nims) Allen and grandson of Edward Allen<sup>11</sup>, was born in 1746. He settled in Shelburne, Mass. In 1772, he married Martha, daughter of Samuel Stebbins, and the couple had 12 children. Silvanus died in 1837, his wife in 1829.

He is represented by a receipt for payment for a wig for Thomas Williams, signed by John Crosby in 1768.

**Edwardus Allen**, brother of Silvanus,<sup>30</sup> was born in 1724 and lived in Shelburne, Mass. He married Hannah Brown of Leyden, Mass., in 1787.

He is represented by a writ of attachment, dated 1789, endorsed as having been defaulted on.

**Samuel Allen**<sup>12</sup>, son of Edward<sup>3</sup> and Mercy (Painter) Allen, was born in 1702. He lived in the house at the Bars (Deerfield) which George Fuller later used as his studio. In 1727, he married Hannah, daughter of Eleazer Hawks [born 1655]. The couple had 12 children, several of whom are mentioned below. Samuel was killed by Indians in 1746 (the Bars Fight); his widow died in 1771.

His papers consist of plats of two lots, one east of the Green River, surveyed in 1736, and the other in the Second Division, Deerfield, undated; and by a list and evaluation of the extensive land holdings included in his estate (c. 1746).

**Eunice Allen**, daughter of Samuel<sup>12</sup> and Hannah (Hawks) Allen, was born in 1733. She was tomahawked and left for dead at the Bars Fight (1746). She never entirely recovered and died in 1818.

The collection includes a reproduction of a page of the *Franklin Herald* of July 28, 1818, which includes her obituary and gives the date of her death as July 18, 1818.

**Samuel Allen**<sup>20</sup>, son of Samuel<sup>12</sup> and Hannah (Hawks) Allen, was born in 1738. He was a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, and a captain in Shays' Rebellion. He moved from Deerfield to Ashfield, Mass., and later to Grand Isle and North Hero, Vermont. He married Zilpha, daughter of Eleazer Hawks [born 1717] in 1764. Samuel died in 1833.

He is represented by a plat of land, formerly belonging to his father, surveyed by Elijah Williams in 1751.

**Judith Allen**, daughter of Caleb<sup>19</sup> and Judith (Hawks) Allen, and granddaughter of Samuel Allen<sup>12</sup>, was born in 1777. In 1819, she became the second wife of Henry Bardwell, who died in 1827. Judith died in 1849.

The collection includes a letter to her in 1809 by her cousin, Sally Allen, a daughter of Lamberton Allen<sup>21</sup>.

**Carlos Allen**<sup>48</sup>, son of Eliel<sup>33</sup> and Electa (Allis) Allen, was born in 1805. He lived in Montague, Mass., later moving to Richmond, Virginia, then Chicopee, Mass. In 1833, he married Martha, daughter of Jonathan Hartwell of Montague. The couple had two daughters. Carlos died in Chicopee in 1877, his wife in 1855.

His papers include "Bruce's address to his troops before the Battle of Bannockburn" by Robert Burns, and "Lines written in an album by Lord Byron," copied for Carlos in 1825 by George Allen; and a promissory note in favor of Samuel H. Russell, signed by Carlos in 1831.

**Caleb Allen**, brother of Carlos Allen<sup>48</sup>, was born in 1809. In 1842, he married Catherine E., daughter of Henry Bardwell. Caleb died in 1862. Catherine, who was born in 1812, died about 1889.

His papers consist of two sheets of verses [possibly in his writing], one dated 1827, the other undated. These are accompanied by copies of a lease Catherine E. (Bardwell) Allen made with Robert Childs and George Warren in 1863; a handwritten copy of terms of her will; a typewritten copy of excerpts from her will, and a pencil draft of an inventory of her estate, 1889.

[Papers of and relating to Frances Stebbins Allen and her sister, Mary Electa Allen, other descendants of Samuel Allen<sup>12</sup> through his son Caleb Allen<sup>19</sup>, are described below.]

**Susanna Allen**, a daughter of Samuel<sup>12</sup> and Hannah (Hawks) Allen, was born in 1739. A seamstress, she married Samuel Bodman of Williamsburg, Mass., in 1774.

She is represented by a 1774 writ of execution of judgment against David Harrington of Conway, Mass., in Susanna's favor.

**Lamberton Allen**<sup>21</sup>, son of Samuel<sup>12</sup> and Hannah (Hawks) Allen, was born in 1742. He settled in Ashfield, Mass., but moved from the area in 1780. His first wife, Sarah Belden, died in 1779; in 1782, he married Esther, widow of William Chamberlain of Deerfield. Lamberton died in 1813, his widow in 1838.

The collection includes plats of two tracts of land north of "Mill Brook," formerly belonging to Aaron Denio and endorsed as belonging to Lamberton Allen.

**Frederick H. Allen**, son of Samuel Clesson<sup>42</sup> and Mary (Hunt) Allen, and a great, great grandson of Edward Allyn<sup>1</sup> through the latter's son, Benjamin Allen<sup>5</sup>, was born in 1896. A graduate of the University of Vermont, he became eminent at the bar in Maine. Later he was a lecturer on political economy at Harvard. In 1829, he married Harriet (Cooley) Dickinson, widow of Jackson Dickinson of Deerfield.

He is represented by a deed to land situated on the East Mountain in Deerfield, purchased from Pliny Arms, Seth Nims, and Daniel Wells in 1831.

**Julia A. Allen**, daughter of Henry and Mary (Jackson) Stebbins, was born in 1837. Her first husband was Howland Cowing; she later married George A. Allen, son of Jonathan Allen<sup>41</sup> and a great, great grandson of Benjamin Allen<sup>5</sup>.

The collection contains a mortgage deed from Julia Allen to the trustees of Smith Charities to land in Deerfield she inherited from her father, and by deed from her brother, John H. Stebbins, 1885.

**Samuel Allen**<sup>7</sup>, son of Edward<sup>1</sup> and Sarah (Kimball) Allyn, was born in 1679. A weaver, he moved about 1711 to Hanover, New Jersey, and served there as deacon. He died in 1730, and is represented by a handwritten copy, made in 1878, of an elegy "In Memory of Deacon Samuel Allen," by Stephen Leonard.

**Caleb Allen**<sup>8</sup>, youngest son of Edward<sup>1</sup> and Sarah (Kimball) Allyn, was born in Suffield, Ct., in 1685. Like his older brother, Samuel, he was a weaver. He lived in Suffield and Enfield, Ct., and finally Northampton, Mass., where he died in 1761. His widow, Hannah (Eaton) Allen, died in 1786.

His papers consist of deeds to two tracts of land, one in Suffield purchased from his brother David Allen<sup>7</sup> in 1724, the other in Enfield, purchased from John Pengilly in 1727.

Grouped in one folder are papers of **Nathan Allen**, laborer of Deerfield, **David Allen** of Greenfield, and **Benjamin Allen** of South Deerfield (?), none of whom appear to have been descendants of Edward Allyn<sup>1</sup>. The papers bear dates of 1774, 1790, 1791 and 1838.

**Caleb Allen**, son of Eliel and Electa Allis Allen, was born Mar. 20, 1809; died Nov. 16, 1862. He married Catherine Bardwell on Jan. 5, 1842.

His papers consist of a diary of terse entries, beginning Mar. 20, 1853, until just before his death. His wife, Catharine, known as "Aunt Kate," continues the diary, beginning Nov. 3, 1862, until May 15, 1864.

**Josiah Allen**<sup>49</sup>, son of Eliel and Electa Allis Allen, was born Jan. 2, 1814; died Mar. 13, 1895. He married Mary Stebbins on May 9, 1853; they had four children, three of whom are mentioned below. Josiah lived on his father's homestead in the Wapping section of Deerfield, which he farmed.

His papers consist of several legal documents, and seven diaries (shelved in diary collection) kept between 1844 and 1895.

**Frances Stebbins Allen**, daughter of Josiah<sup>49</sup> and Mary Stebbins Allen, born August 10, 1854, died February 14, 1941 from pneumonia. Frances attended State Normal School at Westfield, Mass., from 1874 to 1876. Upon graduation she became a teacher at Deerfield Academy, then Green River Intermediate School (Greenfield, Mass.) in 1877, and finally at a school in Whitinsville, Mass., from 1878 to 1886. After losing her hearing around 1890, she turned to photography. Frances, along with her sister Mary, created a studio and darkroom in their home on The Street in Deerfield. Their photographic subjects included local people, especially children, and scenic landscapes. They had various showings from New York to Paris and participated in many Arts & Crafts exhibits during the period 1890 to 1920. Wherever they traveled, they took photographs, many of which appeared in books and magazines.

**Mary Eecta Allen**, daughter of Josiah<sup>49</sup> and Mary Stebbins Allen, born May 14, 1858, died February 18, 1941. She is buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Deerfield, along with her sister Frances. Like Frances, Mary attended State Normal School in Westfield and became a teacher. Mary taught at Green River Primary School (Greenfield, Mass.), Deerfield Academy and High School, and at the Wapping School from 1886-1887. Along with her sister, she became a well-known photographer of people and landscapes, traveled widely, exhibited her works, and had photos published in various media.

The sisters' papers are filed together. They include a description of Memorial Hall, titled "An Hour with Our Ancestors," by Mary E. Allen, 1893; copies of letters (1902-30 inclusive) Mary wrote to Mrs. Jenny Sheldon, Florence and Ellen (Nelly) Birks, and Margaret Roys; and one letter to Margaret Roys from Frances S. Allen. Letters (Box 2, folder 5a) from the sisters to their mother while they attended Westfield Normal School are included. A number of Mary Allen's writings are present, including manuscripts on "The Bars Fight," and a visit to Memorial Hall Museum titled "An Hour with our Ancestors." These are accompanied by a list of photographic prints prepared for Frank Boyden in 1940, and by photocopies of (1) letters to their mother in 1876 from originals owned by the family; (2) ten letters to illustrator, photographer and lecturer, Frances Benjamin Johnston, 1897, 1901 and undated, from originals in the Johnston Papers in the Library of Congress; and (3) "Memories of Frances and Mary Allen" by Florence Elliott Birks.

Papers relating to the Allen sisters include a file of correspondence of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association with Gates & Tripp, a firm allowed to borrow a number of original glass plate negatives for the making and sale of prints, 1978-1981; a file relating to exhibits of Allen sisters' photographs at Berkshire Museum and the Holyoke Public Library, 1984-85; and miscellaneous correspondence and printed material relating to the sisters, including obituaries from a local newspaper.

**Edmund Eliel Allen**, son of Josiah<sup>49</sup> and Mary Stebbins Allen, was born Nov. 23, 1855. He married Harriet Burnett of Springfield, Mass., in 18 . Edmund worked on his father's farm, but eventually became a surveyor and civil engineer. He established an engineering firm in Olean, New York, and served as Superintendent of Streets, and eventually City Engineer. He died in 1939.

His papers consist of letters from his sisters, Mary and Frances, 1875-78; two letters written to them, 1925, 1927; and 16 diaries, mostly written in locations other than Deerfield.

## **Container list:**

### **Box 1**

- Folder 1: Papers of Edward Allyn<sup>1</sup>, 1696 (2 items)
- Folder 2: Papers of John Allyn Jr.<sup>9</sup>, 1750/51 (1 item)
- Folder 3: Papers of Edward Allyn<sup>3</sup> and John Allyn Jr.<sup>9</sup>, 1705, 1708/08 (3 items)
- Folder 4: Papers of Edward Allyn<sup>11</sup>, 1736 (2 items)
- Folder 5: Papers of Silvanus Allen<sup>30</sup>, and his brother, Edwardus Allen, 1768, 1789 (2 items)
- Folder 6: Papers of Samuel Allen<sup>12</sup> and his son, Samuel<sup>20</sup>, 1736, c. 1746, 1751 (4 items)
- Folder 7: Paper relating to Eunice Allen, 1818 (1 item)
- Folder 8: Papers of Judith Allen, Carlos Allen<sup>48</sup>, Caleb Allen, and Catharine E. (Bardwell) Allen, 1809-1889 and undated (9 items)

- Folder 9: Papers of Susanna Allen and Lamberton Allen<sup>21</sup>, 1772 and undated (2 items)
- Folder 10: Papers of Frederick H. Allen and Julia A. (Stebbins) Allen, 1831, 1855 (2 items)
- Folder 11: Paper of Samuel Allen<sup>7</sup> and Caleb Allen<sup>8</sup>, 1730
- Folder 12: Papers of Allens not recorded by George Sheldon: Nathan of Deerfield, David of Greenfield, Benjamin of S. Deerfield, 1774, 1790-91, 1838 (4 items)
- Folder 13: Misc. material (17 items)
- Folder 14: Genealogical material relating to the Allen family
- Folder 15: Correspondence of Geo. Sheldon relating to the Allen family, 1870-1911
- Folder 16: Later correspondence relating to the Allen family, 1966+
- Folder 17: Diary of Caleb Allen, 1853-62/64
- Folder 18: Papers of Josiah Allen, 1854-94 (16 items) [see also diary collection]

## **Box 2**

- Folder 1: Letters of Frances and Mary Allen to their brother, Edward, and his family, 1890-1932 (10 items)
- Folder 2: Letters of Frances and Mary Allen, to their brother, Edward, and his family, some with transcriptions, 1933-34 (20 items)
- Folder 3: Letters of Frances and Mary Allen, to their brother, Edward, and his family, some with transcriptions, 1935 (28 items)
- Folder 4: Letters of Frances and Mary Allen, to their brother, Edward, and his family, some with transcriptions, 1936-40 (32 items)
- Folder 5: Letters of Frances and Mary Allen to Nelly Arms, Margaret Roys, Florence Birks, Mrs. F. Boyden, Jennie Sheldon, 1902-1940 (12 items)
- Folder 5a: Letters of Frances and Mary Allen from Westfield Normal School to their mother 1875-76, n.d.- (8 items)
- Folder 5b: Letters to Frances and Mary Allen from family members, some include photocopies, 1875-76, n.d.- (10 items)
- Folder 5c: Letters to Frances and Mary Allen from Mary Williams Field Fuller, 1936, 1937, and undated (5 items)
- Folder 6: Letters to Judith Allen, daughter of Eliel<sup>33</sup> and Electa Allis Allen, 1863-64 (4 items)
- Folder 7: Letter to Cynthia Hutchinson Allen, wife of Asaph<sup>34</sup> Allen, 1850 (1 item)
- Folder 8: Correspondence to Amelia (Allen) Merrill, daughter of Asaph<sup>34</sup> and Cynthia Allen, wife of Christopher Merrill, 1847-1877, n.d. (4 items)
- Folder 9: Writings of Mary Allen, paper on Allen sisters by Florence Birks, obituaries
- Folder 10: Diary kept by Mary Allen of a trip to the UK in the spring of 1908 with Frances Allen, Florence Birks, and Nellie Birks.

## **Box 3**

- Folder 1: Diaries of Mary Allen; 1912-Sept. 1913; Sept. 1913-July 1914; April-Oct. 1916; Oct. 1916-April 1918; April 7-Aug. 4, 1918 (5 items)
- Folder 2: Letters of Edmund E. Allen, to and from his sisters, Frances and Mary Allen, 1875-78, n.d, 1925, 1927 (12 items, includes 1 fragment)
- Folder 3: Diaries of Edmund E. Allen, kept in Deerfield and Holyoke, Mass., Olean, New York, and various locations in NY State and Penn., 1873/4; 1880-89; 1895-99 (16 items)

## **Box 4**

- Folder 1: Photocopies of letters by Frances and Mary Allen, 1876, 1897-1901 (11 items)
- Folder 2: Correspondence with Gates & Tripp of Boston, relating to Allen sisters photographs, 1978, 1981

Folder 3: Materials relating to exhibition of Allen sisters' photographs at the Berkshire Museum and Holyoke Pub. Library, 1984-85

Folder 4: Correspondence and printed items relating to the Allen sisters' photographs

Folder 5: Printed items regarding *The Allen Sisters: Pictorial Photographers, 1885-1920*, 2002  
(10 items)

Loose in box: *Citizens of a Small Town: A Book of Postcards of Allen Sisters Photographs*