

Chapter 2. John Boswell Allen and Jane Dillard Allen: Kentucky to Indiana to Shakopee, Minnesota

John Boswell Allen and Jane Dillard Allen, my third great-grandparents, came from Spencer County, Kentucky to Boone County, Indiana, and in 1853 to the young town of Shakopee, Scott, Minnesota. John and Jane were married on 18 Nov 1829 in Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Kentucky. The record reads "Allen, John B., and Jane Dillard. Surety James Dillard, girl's father, who consented in person. Man of age. 18 Nov 1829. C. Lovelace [minister]."

ANCESTRY OF JOHN BOSWELL ALLEN

John B. Allen was born on 24 Feb 1806 in the Little Mount Church area of Shelby County, Kentucky. Today that area is in Spencer County. Spencer County was formed in 1824 from lands formerly in Bullitt, Nelson, and Shelby Counties. It is in northern Kentucky, southwest of Louisville. His father was John Allen, Sr., who was born in Maryland on 18 Dec 1769, and his mother was Elizabeth Boswell, who was born in 1768 in Prince Georges County, Maryland. John and Elizabeth were married on 10 Nov. 1789 in Nelson County, Kentucky.

JOHN ALLEN, SR., father of John Boswell Allen. Mary Frances McClain Brown wrote a book entitled *The Chronicle of a Country Church: Little Mount Baptist 1801-1976*. It says that



Little Mount Church Cemetery, Kentucky

"Andrew and John Allen [Andrew Allen, Sr. was the brother of John Allen, Sr.] were among the earliest settlers in the area to become Little Mount. In 1794 they bought 500 acres from Tardivean Brothers for 100 pounds. This tract of land was part of 4000 acres conveyed to Tardivean out of a 30,000 acre tract surveyed for Mark Thomas, James Patton, and Benjamin Pope. Later, many residents were to buy land from this survey, and a study of the early survey deeds indicates that much of the original 30,000 acre survey included the lands in and around what was to become Little Mount and Spencer County.

Andrew Allen took residence on the land lying on the old Little Mount Church Road.... His descendants continued to live on these lands until after 1900. The road was then known as Allen's Lane. Very little can be found on this first Andrew Allen except that he was married to Mary Connelly, a daughter of James Connelly, and a sister of John D. Connolly whose family figures prominently in the early church, and that he and his wife united with Little Mount Church by letter in 1810, became active members, and [that he] died March 13, 1850."

Mrs. Brown later wrote another book that continues: "**The Henry, McDavitt, Foreman, and Allen families of Taylorsville and Elk Creek communities are direct descendants of Andrew Allen, Jr., son of John Allen, Sr. Andrew Allen, Jr. married Polly (Miller) Johnson.**"

John B Allen was named executor, along with Samuel Dooley, of the estate of John Allen, who died in 1837 in Boone County, Indiana. John Allen named as children Andrew, Angeline Dulin, Sally Johnson, Teny Johnson, Elizabeth Thompson, and Lenny Dooley. John B Allen was named as both an heir and executor. That document proves that Andrew Allen, Jr. was the son of John Allen, Sr. and, by implication, that John Allen, Jr. was the son of Andrew Allen, Sr. That naming practice was not uncommon in that area in that time. Thus John Boswell Allen, the son of John Allen, Sr. was a cousin, not a brother, of John Allen, Jr.

Children of Andrew Allen, Sr. and Mary 'Polly' Connelly were John Allen Jr. (1793-1877, m. 1st Catherine 'Kitty' Muster, 2nd, Nancy Weaver); Elijah Allen (1792-1852, Elizabeth Crafton); Sarah 'Sallie' Allen (1798-1869, William Gray); Benjamin Allen (1800-); America Allen (1810-1892, Matthew Cain); Christina Allen; and Nancy Allen (John W Jones).

A few genealogy message boards state that John Allen, Sr. and Andrew Allen, Sr. had a third brother, James. All three were born in Maryland. Their father may have been another John Allen.

ELIZABETH BOSWELL, mother of John Boswell Allen, was the daughter of James and Priscilla Boswell. The Maryland Births and Christenings Index states that Elizabeth, the daughter of James and Priscilla Boswell, was baptized on 19 June 1768 in King Georges Episcopal Parish. James and Priscilla had been married Abt. 1765 in Charles County, Maryland. James had been born ~1742 in Charles County, the same county in which the children of James and Priscilla probably were born.

In her book *The Boswells of Shelby County, Kentucky*, Eula Richardson Hasskarl states that James Boswell and his wife, Priscilla, of Montgomery County, Maryland, sold land located in Charles County, Maryland, in 1783. James is found on the Roll of the Revolutionary War Militia List and the Militia Officers' List. He signed the patriot's oaths of fidelity and support in Montgomery County in 1778. Thus I have an ancestor who fought in the Revolutionary War. We'll find another later in this chapter.

From various documents, Mrs. Hasskarl concluded that James Boswell died between 1785 and 1789. He had probably migrated at that point, with his family, to Kentucky. His daughter Priscilla was married in 1789 in Nelson County, Kentucky. By about 1800 the family was established in Shelby County. The children of James and Priscilla Boswell, in addition to Elizabeth, were Nancy (~ 1768-1802, Jacob Tichenor); Priscilla (~ 1766- , Andrew Paul); Sarah (~1767-, Jacob Ruble); George (~1777-1831, Mary Ann 'Polly' Shively; and John H (~1781-1852, Mildred 'Malinda' Elliott).

ANCESTRY OF JANE DILLARD

The ancestors of Jane Dillard were from Virginia. The chart in Appendix I shows those ancestors based on Dillard genealogy that has been extensively investigated.¹ Jane's father James Dillard was born in Culpeper County, Virginia in 1777. He had 16 children by two wives. He moved west from Culpeper County to the area around Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Kentucky about 1810 with his in-laws, the Robert English family. As stated in the opening of this chapter, Jane married John Boswell Allen in Elizabethtown in 1829.



Memorial to the Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina, where William Dillard was killed

Jane Dillard's grandfather, William Dillard, was born in 1753 in Culpeper County. He enlisted in the Virginia Continental Army at Chesterfield Courthouse 20 Sep 1780 and subsequently, on 8 September 1781, he was killed in the Battle of Eutaw Springs in South Carolina. That battle was the last major engagement of the war in the Carolinas; both sides claimed victory. I therefore have a second claim to Revolutionary War ancestry. Williams's brother 'Captain' James Dillard had moved to Laurens County, South Carolina at age 17. He served throughout the Revolutionary War under Generals Sumpter and Greene and was with General Sumpter at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, where his brother was killed.

SLAVEHOLDERS IN KENTUCKY?

John Spencer was the husband of Priscilla Allen and then Nancy Allen and therefore the brother-in-law of John Boswell Allen. John, his brother George H Spencer, and his sons John Bruce Spencer and Spier Spencer all were prominent figures in the early histories of Minnesota and Shakopee. I will tell those stories in the section on Shakopee. For now, I will excerpt one of the articles written about Spier Spencer: "He was born in Spencer County, Kentucky, January 22, 1827, his father being a prominent slave owner. He lived there until age 14, when his father sold his slaves and moved to Boone County, Indiana, where he remained for eight years." That relocation, in 1841, was after the move by John Allen. It is conceivable that John Allen, like John Spencer, held slaves in Kentucky before relocating to Boone County, Indiana. There is no

evidence for or against that hypothesis.

THE ALLEN FAMILY MOVES TO INDIANA

John Boswell Allen had eight brothers and sisters. Of those, six figured in the relocation from Spencer County, Kentucky, to Boone County, Indiana about 1835:

Sarah ‘Sally’ Allen (1791-1878). She married Alexander Johnson in 1810 in Shelby County, Kentucky. Both Sally and Alexander died in Urbana, Benton, Iowa.

Christina ‘Teny’ Allen (1796-1872). She married James Johnson, the brother of Alexander Johnson; both men were sons of Lancelot Johnson and Elizabeth McCoy. The marriage was in 1814 in Shelby County. Both Teny and James died near Morton, Clinton Township, Putnam, Indiana.

Priscilla Allen (1800-1833). Priscilla married John Spencer in 1819 in Shelby County. Priscilla and John had two children in Shelby County, John Bruce Spencer and Spier Spencer. Priscilla actually died before the move to Indiana, but her husband and sons went to Indiana, and in 1835, in Boone County, John Spencer married **Nancy Allen** (1803-1861), the sister of Priscilla.

Linnie Allen (1802-1837). Linnie married Samuel Dooley, Jr., known as “Judge Dooley,” in Shelby County in 1821. She died in Boone County, Indiana, shortly after the Allens moved there from Kentucky, leaving five children. Dooley then married Polly Stevens and is found in the 1850 census living next to the John B. Allen family in Boone County. He moved his family to Scott County, Minnesota, at the same time as John B. Allen; he applied for Bounty Land there in 1855 and was a member of the 6th District Minnesota Territorial Council from 1856-57.

Elizabeth Allen (1804-1861) married Jesse Thompson in 1826 in Spencer County, Kentucky. After moving to Boone County, Indiana, they had eight children.

The two children of John Allen, Sr. who did not relocate to Indiana were **Andrew Allen, Jr.** (1798-1868), who was previously mentioned, and **Mary Angeline Allen** (1809-1834). Andrew Allen, Jr. married Mary ‘Polly’ Johnson, with whom he had seven children. Her two brothers married two of the sisters of Andrew Allen, Jr. After Polly’s death in 1835, Andrew married Sarah ‘Sally’ Davis and then Elmira P Graves.

Mary Angeline Allen married **John Dulin** in 1828 in Shelby County. One of their three children, **James Edward Dulin**, a brickmason, was an early settler of Shakopee along with his uncle John Boswell Allen. He later moved across the Minnesota River to Chaska in Carver County.

After the death of Mary Angeline Allen, John Dulin married **Priscilla Boswell** and had eight more children, all of whom were born in Boone County, Indiana. Priscilla was the daughter of John H. Boswell and therefore the first cousin of John Boswell Allen and the first cousin of Mary Angeline Allen.

JOHN BOSWELL ALLEN MOVES TO SHAKOPEE, SCOTT COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Only five families lived in Scott County in 1851 and twenty persons in 1852. But more arrived in 1853 when the Dakota were removed to the Upper Sioux Agency, including the John



Tombstone of John B Allen, Valley Cemetery, Shakopee, Minnesota

B Allen family (Early History and Sketches of Scott County, Scott County Hist. Soc.). At first he "kept a boarding-house in what was called the Pennsylvania House. L. M. Brown describes this house as having two rooms, one above and one below. The lower room had a log fireplace, while the upper one had only the rafters above and one window with five lights of glass. Nevertheless this hotel could accommodate, as it appears, fifteen or more persons, regardless of sex." (History of the Minnesota Valley, 1882).

Subsequently John B Allen returned to farming. On Feb. 13, 1854 he paid \$1500 for 80 acres of government land on the Shakopee-LeSeur road three miles from Shakopee plus a timbered tract adjacent

to Samuel and Andrew Dooley (Scott County Deeds). He bought additional land in 1855. On the 1880 plat map his farm was the entire 165 acres of W1/2 E 1/2 section 15, T115 N R23W in the Town of Jackson. He built the first house in Jackson. In later years, while living in Jackson, John and Jane kept Flora, Cora Ann, and Frank Weiser, children of their daughter Mary Elizabeth Allen Weiser, who had died in 1865, and Frances and Martha May Koons, children of their daughter Henrietta Allen Koons, who also died in 1865.



Tombstone of Jane Dillard Allen, Valley Cemetery, Shakopee, Minnesota

The funeral of John B. Allen took place on Tuesday, December 26, from the residence of Spier Spencer (Scott County Argus, Dec. 28, 1893). The tombstone inscription says "Dearest Father we must lay thee In the peaceful grave's embrace But thy memory will be cherished Till we see thy heavenly face." Scott County probate lists personal property of \$1000 and real estate property in the town of Shakopee of \$20, and these

heirs: children Marcena Uttley 49 of St Paul, Harrison Allen 53 of Rochester MN, James P Allen 49 of St Paul, and John A Allen 45 of Philadelphia; grandchildren Anna St John 33 of Council Bluffs IA, J Frank Weiser 30 of Omaha NE, children of Mary Elizabeth Weiser, deceased; and great-grandchildren Nina Kintner 12, Rudolph Kintner 10, and Sallie Kintner 8, children of Flora Kintner; also Cora Hewitt 17 and Arthur Hewitt 16 of Granite Falls, MN, **Florence Hewitt 13 of Minneapolis (my grandmother)**, Verna and Maud Hewitt 10 of Waverly MN, those five being children of Martha May Hewitt deceased, and Ruth Riggs 20, Eva Riggs 18, and Edward Riggs 15, all of Shakopee and children of Ann Eliza Riggs deceased.

John B Allen and Jane Dillard Allen are buried in Lot 39², the Allen plot, in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

OTHERS WHO MIGRATED FROM KENTUCKY TO INDIANA TO SHAKOPEE

'Judge' Samuel Dooley, Jr., had been an executor of the estate of John Allen in Indiana. His first wife was Linnie Allen, sister of John Boswell Allen. He was originally from Kentucky. He applied for Bounty Land in Scott County in 1855. He served on the 6th District Minnesota Territorial Council from 1856-57.

John Spencer was the husband of Priscilla and later Nancy Allen, sisters of John B Allen. He, his brother George H Spencer, and his sons John Bruce Spencer and Spier Spencer all moved west from Boone County, Indiana, to Minnesota. George H Spencer, an early settler, died in Shakopee in 1889. John Bruce Spencer arrived in Saint Paul in 1849. He invested in real estate and built a number of houses in Saint Paul. He built the breakwater and dock in Duluth. He died in 1904 in Alameda, California.

Spier Spencer was born in Spencer County, Kentucky in 1827. At age 14 his father moved north to Boone County, Indiana. In 1849, accompanied by his only brother, John B Spencer, he went West and located at St. Paul when that city was still a small village. They worked as carpenters there until 1853, when he bought one-third of the townsite of Shakopee for \$4100.

On Nov. 16, 1853, he married **Rose Ann Spencer**, at Traverse de Sioux. She was the daughter of George H Spencer and therefore Spier's first cousin. He opened a general store in Shakopee and traded in produce and furs with the Sioux, building a home on the site later known as the Major Strait farm. He had a side business in 1861 owning and operating a steamboat on the Minnesota River. He was the third treasurer of Scott County. In 1856, with three other men, he organized the county of Faribault and located its present county seat, Blue Earth City.

In the fall of 1862 a kernel of wheat struck Spier in the eye and caused inflammation, resulting in total blindness. He then disposed of the farm, bought a home on Second Street in Shakopee, and opened a private boarding house known as the Union Home. Later he mastered the trade of broom-making and supplied local stores and communities until 1895, when he retired.

Children of Spier and Rose Ann were Julia Esther Spencer, Carrie Spencer Gardner, Charles Henry Spencer, Hattie Spencer Nash, and Isabelle Spencer.³

Spier and Rose Ann Spencer, George H Spencer, and Isabelle are buried in Lot 204² in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

CHILDREN OF JOHN BOSWELL ALLEN AND JANE DILLARD ALLEN

John and Jane Allen had nine children, who were born either in Kentucky or Indiana. They and their descendants have interesting stories that, in some cases, I investigated for years and years until I had them figured out.

MARY ELIZABETH ALLEN (1832-1865, William Frank Weiser), daughter of John B Allen and Jane Dillard

The wedding of Mary Elizabeth and William F Weiser in 1857 was the first to occur in the Town of Jackson. After her death, he married Kate Love McCallum. They continued to live for a time in Scott County, but eventually they moved to Valley City, North Dakota Territory and then Washington State, where he was a stonemason. His children by Mary Elizabeth stayed in Jackson Township with their grandparents the Allens.

Mary Elizabeth Allen Weiser is buried in Lot 39², the Allen plot, in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

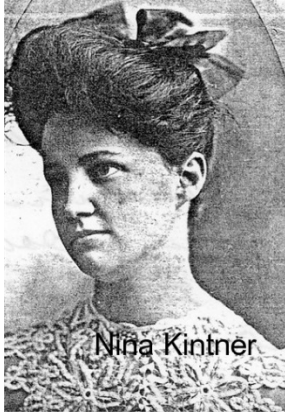
The children of Mary Elizabeth were:

(1) **Flora M Weiser** (1855-1887). Flora married Jerome A Kintner, a Pennsylvania native and a hotelkeeper in Valley City, North Dakota. Between 1885 and 1900 he relocated to Bethany, Missouri and reinvented himself as a "hydropathist." The History of Harrison County, Missouri (1921) states: "**The Heilbron Sanatorium is a large, handsome, commodious and modern structure with... a system of bath rooms, including Turkish baths.... The name 'Heilbron' was adopted from its signification, meaning 'healing waters.'** The sanatorium is now and has been since its opening under the management of **Dr. Jerome A. Kintner, the noted hydropathist, who also administers thermo-electric treatment.**" The biography of Jerome A. Kintner in the same book is rather fanciful, to say the least, inventing a European background and training that he in fact did not have. It says his father was reared in Berlin and was a noted physician there, and that Jerome trained under Dr Sailor in Berlin and that he worked at various facilities in Europe and the United States. These "facts" are manifestly untrue.



Jerome A Kintner

The children of Flora and Jerome Kintner were Nina Margurite, Rudolph William, and Sara Beatrice.



Nina Kintner

Nina Kintner (1880-1919) lived with her sister Beatrice in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. She died, from tuberculosis, two months after the suicide of her sister. She was a teacher at the University of Minnesota. She is buried in Block 16, Lot 6 in Oakland Cemetery in Saint Paul.

Rudolph William Kintner (1882-1946) was an actor and comedian on the Orpheum Circuit, with headquarters in New York City, together with his wife Bessie Knox Kintner. In about 1920 they relocated to San Diego, California, continuing in those occupations, but in a few years went into manufacture of potato chips.

Beatrice Kintner (1885-1919) married Charles Whitney Allen. He was a grandson of John B and Jane Allen and therefore her first cousin once removed. I will discuss them, her death by suicide, and their children in the section below on James Peter Allen.



Beatrice Kintner

(2) **Cora Ann Weiser (1859-1941)** married Oscar Orlando St. John, a farmer. She died in Fort Collins, Colorado.

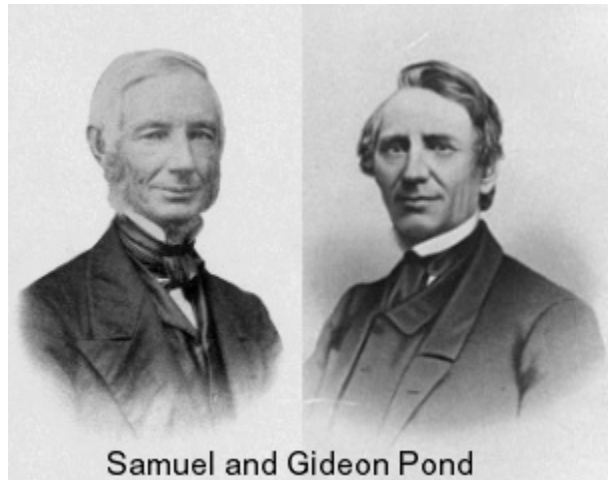
(3) **John Franklin Weiser (1861-1919)** lived with his Allen grandparents in 1875 and 1880 and eventually moved to Sioux City, Iowa, where he was a commercial fruit agent.

LUCY JANE ALLEN (1834-1853), daughter of John B Allen and Nancy Dillard



Tombstone of Lucy Allen, Valley Cemetery, Shakopee MN

The death of Lucy Jane was the first to occur in the new town of Shakopee. The sermon at her funeral was the first given in Shakopee by Rev. Samuel William Pond, one of the famous Pond brothers who were early missionaries to the Dakota (Sioux) Indians and authors of a dictionary of the Dakota language.



Samuel and Gideon Pond

They grew up in Washington, Connecticut. After attending a revival in 1831, they determined to take religion and farming techniques to the Dakota and did so from 1834 to 1853. After most of the Dakota were moved to reservations in 1851, Gideon took a pastorate in Oak Grove (present-day Bloomington) and

Samuel took one in Shakopee.

Lucy is buried in Lot 39², the Allen plot, in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

HENRIETTA ALLEN (1838-1865, Henry David Jones Koons), daughter of John B Allen and Nancy Dillard



Tombstone of Henrietta Allen Koons, Valley Cemetery, Shakopee MN

In Chapter 1 of this book I have traced the story of Henry David Jones Koons from Philadelphia to Ohio to Wisconsin to Shakopee, his marriage to Henrietta, and his early death from pneumonia after a winter horseback ride from the Upper Sioux Agency. Henrietta died soon after, leaving two girls orphans. Those girls were Frances Isabell and Martha Mae. Henrietta and Henry D J Koons are buried in Lot



Tombstone of Henry D J Koons, Valley Cemetery, Shakopee MN

39², the Allen plot, in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

(1) **Frances Isabell Koons (1855-1880)** married **William Howard Green** from Easton,



Tombstone of Frances Isabell Koons Green, Valley Cemetery, Shakopee MN

Pennsylvania, an engineer with the Rock Island Line, which was extending its network of tracks into Dakota Territory. The couple lived in Deuel County in eastern Dakota Territory, the same place as her sister Martha Mae Hewitt and her uncle Harrison Allen. They had two boys, neither of whom lived more than a day, and a daughter Jane 'Jennie.' Frances died after giving birth to the second boy. The funeral service, in Shakopee, was preached by the pastor, after which Rev Samuel Pond made a few remarks. The obituary says "Deceased was well and favorably known here during her lifetime, and sympathizing friends filled the church to overflowing." She is buried with the

two boys in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee in Lot 39, the Allen plot..

After her death William Howard Green returned to Easton and in 1883 married a widow, Emma Margaret Stinson Kinney. He died six years later. Jennie died in 1882 in Easton.



Martha Mae 'Dolly' Koons

(2) **Martha Mae 'Dolly' Koons** (1859-1886), my great-grandmother, married **George Hewitt**. They both died at young ages, leaving five children orphans. The children were Cora Isabel, Arthur Allen, Florence Lenore, my grandmother, Maude Irene, and Verna May. The stories of Dolly, George, and the children are told in Chapter 4 of this book.



George Hewitt

According to cemetery records, Martha Mae and George Hewitt are buried in Lot 171 in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee, but there are no tombstones.

JAMES PETER ALLEN (1844-1916, Florence E Whitney), son of John B Allen and Nancy Dillard

James Peter Allen served in the Civil War as captain of the Co. L 1st Minnesota heavy artillery, in which his brother Harrison was a lieutenant. After the War he became a partner in Chase & Allen drugs & medicines at 223 3rd Street in St. Paul. An ad read "Particular attention



James P Allen in front of his drugstore (on the top step), St. Paul, Minnesota

paid to compounding prescriptions. Drugs, chemicals, paints, oils, perfumeries, combs, brushes, and all the fancy articles usually kept in a City Drug Store." He eventually became sole owner of the drug store and then took on his brother John Alfred as partner. The business expanded to that of a manufacturing pharmacy, producing medicinal ointments. It must have been quite successful, because a dedicated structure, the J. P. Allen Building, was erected in 1888 as a warehouse.

Florence Whitney came from a distinguished Maine

family that traced its ancestry back to the 1500s in England. She graduated from Carleton College in 1866. My mother wrote that "Aunt Florence Allen was a Grand Dame type of lady. She wore beautiful long gowns of lovely silks and other fine fabrics." She lived until 1941, staying in the family home on Lake Avenue on the lake in White Bear Lake, to which they moved from Saint Paul shortly before the death of J P Allen.

J P Allen and Florence Whitney Allen are buried in Block 16, Lot 6 in Oakland Cemetery in Saint Paul, as are Lillian Maude Allen Williams, Charles Whitney Allen, and Beatrice Kintner Allen.

Children of James Peter and Florence Allen:

(1) **Lillian Maude Allen** (1873-1909) married Henry White Williams, a lawyer. They had two children, Florence (1903-2000) and Allen Henry (1907-1981). Florence married Donald Searing Bruce, an asbestos company chemist. Allen Henry, an insurance claims representative, married Frances L Nelson.

(2) **Charles Whitney Allen** (1876-1940) took over the Saint Paul pharmaceutical company after his father died. As discussed above, he married his first cousin once removed, Beatrice Kintner. She suffered from "melancholia" and died by a self-inflicted gunshot wound in 1919. After that his mother Florence helped raise the children. My mother knew this family in the 1920s. She wrote that "**Charlie always drove Cadillacs. Charlie and Aunt Florence came to Washburn often, Charlie having trouble with his heavy car on dirt roads.**" They frequently left the children with her grandparents, Howard & Florence Smith. While in high school my mother spent one summer in White Bear Lake with them, tutoring the girls and giving them piano lessons. She felt under-prepared in her piano skills.

Children of Charles Whitney and Beatrice Allen were John Franklin Allen (1911-1989, Jane Rankin Fite), Martha Lillian Allen (1913-1975, Richard David Challoner, a railroad agent in Montana), and Sally Kintner Allen (1918-1967, Caryl Hiram Emery).

HARRISON ALLEN (1840-1916), son of John B Allen and Nancy Dillard

Harrison's obituary reads "[he] served in the Civil War for three years as corporal of Co. I 9th Minn. and later was made 1st lieutenant of Co. L. heavy artillery [of which his brother James was captain]. He participated in many battles, among them being Gettysburg. During his service he suffered a severe sunstroke followed by a long illness which left him an invalid for the remainder of his life."

For a time Harrison was a farmer in Deuel County, Dakota Territory, the same county in which George and Martha Mae Koons Hewitt lived, and two dwellings from the house of Howard and Frances Koons Green. Martha Mae and Frances were his nieces.

His wartime disability must have taken over, because in 1900 and 1910 he was a patient at Rochester State Hospital in Olmsted County, Minnesota, and for the four years before his death at Hastings State Asylum in Dakota County, Minnesota. Cause of death was "cerebral apoplexy

with contributing senile dementia.” According to cemetery records, he is buried in Lot 177², the Riggs-Ferguson plot, in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

ANN ELIZA ALLEN (1842-1891, Abner Riggs), daughter of John B Allen and Nancy Dillard



Tombstone of Ann Eliza Allen Riggs, Valley Cemetery, Shakopee, Minnesota

Ann Eliza married Abner Riggs (1843-1915). He came from an old Connecticut family, his grandfather being Edward Riggs and his grandmother Olive Beach. His father was Amos Beach Riggs, whose obituary in part reads “when a young man [he] was in the blacksmithing business, but eventually followed farming. He came out to Minnesota with his family in May 1857 and rented for three years the farm now occupied by Rev S W Pond, his brother-in-law; he then bought 120 acres in Eagle Creek, where he has since resided..... His wife, who was a sister of the Messrs Pond,

died a few years ago, and he has been living with his son Mr. Abner Riggs, on the old homestead.”

As the obituary says, the mother of Abner Riggs was Ruth Pond, sister of the missionary Pond brothers, to whom I referred in the section above on Lucy Jane Allen. The wedding of Abner Riggs and Ann Eliza Allen was officiated by Samuel William Pond.

The obituary of Abner Riggs reads, in part, “Abner Riggs was one of the well known pioneers of Shakopee.... He came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Amos B. Riggs, to Shakopee in 1856 when the townsite was a wilderness. His mother was a sister to the celebrated missionaries, Gideon and Samuel Pond, and for the first three years after their arrival here the family lived with the latter.... In 1859 the Riggs family moved to the farm south of town [Town of Eagle Creek] which had been his home until fourteen years ago when he came to Shakopee to reside....” Abner Riggs died in Los Angeles while on a visit West.



Tombstone of Abner Riggs, Valley Cemetery, Shakopee, Minnesota

Abner Riggs and Ann Eliza Allen Riggs are buried in Lot 177², the Riggs-Ferguson plot, in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

The children of Abner and Ann Eliza Allen Riggs were:

(1) **Eva Allen Riggs** (1877-1926). Eva married **Spencer B. Ferguson**, a flour mill engineer.



Tombstone of Eva Riggs Ferguson, Valley Cemetery, Shakopee MN

Their children were Lloyd Edward Ferguson (1907-1982, Luelle Vroman), John Merritt Ferguson (1911-1994, Marian Jael Wells), and Bernice Maxine Ferguson (1915-1995, Jackson Eugene Quisno). Eva is buried in Lot 177², the Riggs-Ferguson plot, in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

(2) **Ruth Jennette Riggs** (1874-1941) married **George Daly Plumstead** in 1896. They had a son, Charles Abner Plumstead (1897-1963), who became an optician,

first in Minnesota and later on the West Coast. In 1904 Ruth and her son attended the wedding of my grandparents, Howard A Smith and Florence Lenore Hewitt, in Saint Paul (Edna Pond and Eva Riggs also attended.) She was divorced from George Plumstead and in 1908 married **Frank Elliott Brooks**. Brooks was a hardware merchant in Shakopee but after moving to Minneapolis dealt in real estate. He died in 1919 from injuries received when he fell from a two-story building. Mr. Brooks had gone to inspect the roof repairs on a building he owned.

Ruth Riggs Brooks and Frank Elliott Brooks are buried in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis.

(3) **Edward Harrison Riggs** (1878-1937) married **Clara Langfeldt** in 1904 in Yankton, South Dakota. In 1918 they relocated from Yankton to Ripon, Wisconsin, where Mr. Riggs organized the Whiting-Riggs Oil Company, distributors for a number of communities in that locality.

Their children were Ruth L Riggs (1907-1978), Verna G Riggs (1907-1962, Richard Grosse), a Navy Lieutenant in World War II, Doris A Riggs (1910-1998, Robert Richards Miller), and Edward Haarrison Riggs, Jr. (1918-2001).



MARTHA M ALLEN (1841-1861), daughter of John B Allen and Nancy Dillard

The grave of Martha M Allen, like those of some of her brothers and sisters, is in Lot 39², the Allen plot, in Valley Cemetery in Shakopee, Minnesota.

Tombstone of Martha M Allen, Valley Cemetery, Shakopee, Minnesota

JOHN ALFRED ALLEN (1848-1914), son of John B Allen and Nancy Dillard

Between 1871 and 1879 J Alfred Allen appeared in Saint Paul City Directories as a clerk for his brother J P Allen in the pharmaceutical business. For many years that is all that I knew until I stumbled upon a death record for J A Allen in the Philadelphia area. That turned out to be the correct J A Allen. In the early 1880s he became a partner in the Manayunk Optical Company, later buying out his partner and assuming full ownership.



Manayunk is an area of Philadelphia on the east bank of the Schuylkill River, nine miles northwest of Center City Philadelphia. Originally a working class town, it is now upscale. We have had several lunches in one of the trendy restaurants on its main street.

In 1901, in Philadelphia, Alfred married **Sarah ‘Sallie’ Elizabeth Snyder**. Her father Adam



*Tombstone of John Alfred Allen,
Odd Fellows Cemetery,
Gladwyne PA*

served in the Civil War, but shortly after discharge in 1862 died in an Army Hospital in Philadelphia. Sallie died in 1907 of appendicitis. In 1910 Alfred then married **Augusta ‘Gussie’ Emma Feger** when she was 46 and he was 62. Alfred died four years later of Brights Disease (nephritis). Augusta continued to live in her house on Mitchell Street in Manayunk until she died in 1951 at age 88. John Alfred Allen and Augusta Feger Allen are both buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Gladwyne.

The obituary of J A Allen in the Philadelphia Evening Ledger reads: "**J Alfred Allen, an optician for many years, and a well-known resident of Manayunk, died yesterday afternoon at his home, 156 Krams Avenue, of Brights disease. He was 66 years old. Mr. Allen, who was born in**

Indiana, had been in the wholesale drug business in St Paul, Minn., prior to settling in this city. He leaves a widow, who before her marriage was Miss Augusta Feger, daughter of the late Colonel Joseph Seger, of Pottsville."

MARCENA ‘MAE’ ALLEN (1851-1941, Paleman Linus Uttley), daughter of John B Allen and Nancy Dillard

Marcena Allen married P L Uttley in 1877 in the Town of Jackson, Scott, Minnesota. Witnesses were J Alfred Allen and Ida M Spencer. P L Uttley, a grocer and traveling salesman, was one of eight children of George Livingston Uttley and Laurentia Eldred Fellows, both from New York State. Several of his brothers and sisters have quite interesting stories of their own.

P L and Marcena Uttley lived in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, but between 1920 and 1922 moved west to Los Angeles to be with their daughter Gretchen Uttley Stewart. There he apparently dabbled in real estate. He died in 1927 at their home on Allison Avenue in north Los Angeles from "arteriosclerosis and senility" (death certificate). Mae lived with Gretchen in Los Angeles in 1930 but by 1938 had moved back to Minneapolis to live with her son James A Uttley, where she resided until her death in 1941.

Marcena was cremated on August 4, 1941. The ashes were buried in 1944 in an unmarked grave in Block 104, Lot 8 in Oakland Cemetery in Saint Paul (cemetery records). P L Uttley had been buried in 1927 in Forest Lawn in Los Angeles.

Children of P L Uttley and Marcena Allen Uttley were:

(1) **James Alfred Uttley (1879-1952)**. James Alfred Uttley was a salesman of farm machinery, furniture, and electrical appliances, among other commodities. He was a volunteer in the Spanish-American War. He and wife Clara L Jackson had three children: James Martin Uttley (1907-1919), Gerald Palemon Uttley (1910-1997, Marion Jane Taylor), and Maxine Elizabeth Uttley (1915-2000, John Leger Stewart).

(2) **Fred F Uttley** (1880- between 1895-1900)

(3) **Gretchen Bettie Uttley** (1885-1964). Gretchen sang “Beloved, It Is Morn” at the wedding of Eva Riggs to Spencer Ferguson in Shakopee in 1906. In 1908 she played “Lohengrin” at the wedding of Ruth Riggs Plumstead and Frank E Brooks in Shakopee. She must have wanted to pursue a musical career, because in the 1910 census she was living on West 82nd St. in Manhattan, listed as an opera singer. Living in the same address in Manhattan in 1910 was Cutter Cobb 20, no occupation. That same year they were married, but the marriage lasted less than ten years. The singing career did not last either. In the 1920 census she was a department store saleslady lodging with Evangeline Wechsler 35, a singing teacher, in an apartment at 1 W 104th St in Manhattan.

Gretchen’s first husband **Francis Cutter Cobb** (1891-1965) would go on to a degree in electrical engineering from Columbia and a career with Public Service Electric and Gas Company of New Jersey. He would marry three more times, the last time to an Irish socialite in Boca Raton, Florida. Apart from Gretchen, Cutter’s wives were all well-connected socially.

By the early 1920s Gretchen had moved to the Los Angeles area, where her parents joined her. She was by then married to **John A Stewart** (1893-1936). In 1930 John A Stewart, field manager for a flour mill, lived in Gardena Township with wife Bettie, chicken raising farmer, and mother-in-law Marcena Uttley, widow. Their address today would be in Hawthorne near I-105. In 1930 the area was small farms but today is part of the LA megalopolis. In 1940 Bettie, by then a widow, was a rooming house manager with three lodgers. She lived until 1964, dying of cardiorespiratory collapse, disseminated metastasis, and recurrent carcinoma of the larynx. Her last address was close to where she lived in 1930. She is buried in Pacific Crest Cemetery in Redondo Beach.

I spent some time researching Gretchen, who is only my first cousin three times removed. But her story, aspiring opera singer to chicken farmer, proved intriguing.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am indebted to Doris Hobbs, who emailed me the material on the Little Mount Church and the settling of the area by the Allen brothers.

My “Aunt” Ada Hewitt assembled a record of the Hewitt family with my cousin Roxie Smith Hubbs. That and several letters from Ada to my mother provided clues to some of this history. Those letters are mentioned in Chapters 1 and 4.

Mary Jane Miller Dolata emailed me valuable details on the Riggs family, including the death of Abner Riggs, before her untimely death. She was a great-granddaughter of Abner Riggs and Ann Eliza Allen Riggs.

FOOTNOTES

¹ There was at one time a website, DillardFamilyAssociation.com, that is no longer active, and a series of annual Dillard Family publications. An extensive Internet network of Dillard researchers can still be Googled. One notable article is "Dillards of Culpeper County, Virginia and Related Families of South Carolina," by Dorothy Dillard Hughes, "Dillard Annual," Vol. 5 (Jan 1998) p.21-23.

² In Valley Cemetery Lot 39 is adjacent to the north-south entrance road, off 4th Street, on its west side, just before the road splits. Lot 177 is on the east side of the entrance road, one plot south of Lot 39 and three plots east of the road. Lot 171 is one plot south of Lot 177 and three more plots east. Lot 204 is two plots south and two plots east of the cemetery entrance.

³ Julia Esther Spencer (1855-1936), a school teacher, never married. Caroline 'Carrie' Spencer (1861-1936) married George W Gardner, a railroad machinist, but he died in 1891. Charles Henry Spencer (1858-1943) married Anna Elizabeth Jenks and was a railroad dispatcher in Portland, Oregon. Hattie Morris Spencer (1864-1945) married Edward Wilson Nash, a station agent for the Northern Pacific Railroad. After he prematurely died, she became an expert telegrapher for the railroad, living in Montana and Washington. In retirement she traveled extensively from Alaska to the Canal Zone. Isabelle 'Belle' Spencer (1871-1906) was the assistant postmistress in Shakopee.

APPENDIX ONE (NEXT PAGE): ANCESTORS OF JANE DILLARD

Ancestors of Jane Dillard

