

Coll. 73

Margaret “Maggie” Allen Papers

Processed by:

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Monmouth
County
Historical
Association

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INTRODUCTION

To view the history of the Allen Family of Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, New Jersey is to view a history of Monmouth County itself, with many of the family names rooted in the county's earliest settlers: Williams, Throckmorton, Tilton, Allen, Lippincott, and Forman.

As far back as 1670, there were Allens living in Shrewsbury Township. Listed as a patentee, in 1670 Judah Allen acquired 272 acres of land in Shrewsbury where he built a house at the intersection of Burlington Road (now Sycamore Avenue) and Broad Street. The land was later owned by Richard Stillwell (who built the house that still stands and used it as a country retreat) and Josiah Halstead (who opened the Blue Ball Tavern on the property).

It wasn't until June 1814, that Dr. Edmund Allen (along with his business partner Jacob Corlies) purchased the property. Allen family history says that Dr. Allen particularly liked that location because of the one story addition on the Broad Street side of the house where he could set up his practice and pharmacy.

Dr. Allen and his wife, Elizabeth Cutter Allen, raised their family there, and after his death in 1867, their eldest son Joseph ran a general store where the pharmacy had once been. Their second son, Edmund T. Allen, was the father of Margaret Allen, for whom this collection belongs. Nicknamed "Maggie", she was the second child of Edmund T. Allen and his wife, Elizabeth Cutter Allen, and the last descendant of this family to live in the Allen House.

DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

The bulk of this collection was donated to the historical association in 1977, and includes the travel journal, souvenirs, pamphlets and postcards from Maggie Allen's travels in the late 1920s. There are a few documents pertaining to her parents, paternal and maternal grandparents, and sisters, as well as papers concerning the ownership and history of the Allen House.

Also included are hand-written family trees of the Allen, Throckmorton, and Cutter families and a typed history of the Allen Family.

Items were placed in archival folders according to series and arranged chronologically within folders.

A photograph album of the Allen House containing six black and white photographs and two postcards were added later.

This collection would be useful for researchers interested in international travel during the late 1920s, European vacation destinations or trans-Atlantic travel on luxury ships. It would also be useful for researchers interested in the Allen Family Home on Sycamore Avenue in Shrewsbury.

PROVENANCE: #1977.6, #1992.51

RESTRICTIONS: None

SERIES DESCRIPTION

This collection is divided into seven series: I. Maggie Allen; II. Edmund T. Allen and Elizabeth Cutter Allen; III. Dr. William Nicholas and Sarah Allen Nicholas; IV. Dr. Edmund W. Allen; V. Joseph Allen Jr. and Elizabeth Williams; VI. Cutter Family; and VII. Allen House.

Series I. Maggie Allen, 1860-1959.

8 folders.

Margaret Allen was born 3 February 1860 to Edmund T. and Elizabeth Cutter Allen of Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, New Jersey. She descended from a long line of Allen family members who made their home in Monmouth County since the mid-18th century. Nicknamed “Maggie”, she grew up on Sycamore Avenue in Shrewsbury, living with her grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Smith Cutter, a local physician. The third child in the family, Maggie had two sisters, Jeanette and Sarah and a brother, George. Though never married, Maggie traveled around the world. Souvenirs of her travels make up the bulk of this series.

Also included are two journals that Maggie kept: a personal journal (1924-1929) and a travel journal (1929).

Series II. Edmund T. Allen, 1821-1884 and Elizabeth Cutter Allen, 1822-1889.

2 folders.

Maggie’s parents, Edmund T. and Elizabeth Cutter Allen were married at Trinity Chapel, Red Bank on 8 June 1853. Prior to her marriage Elizabeth Cutter visited relatives in Switzerland and her travel visa is included in this series. Edmund T. Allen served on the Board of Commissioners of Red Bank from 1874-1883.

Series includes a book of poems “The Course of Time” by Robert Pollok (1835) belonging to Elizabeth.

Series III. Dr. William Nicholas, d. 1923 and Sarah Allen Nicholas, 1863-1918.

2 folders. 1 oversized folder.

Sarah Throckmorton Allen was the younger sister of Maggie Allen, born 19 May 1863. Sarah attended Trinity Church in Red Bank and was confirmed there 3 June 1877. She married Dr. William Nicholas on 5 January 1910 at the Church of Holy Communion in New York. Also included is a portrait album which once housed the portraits of William and Sarah.

Also included are certificates related to William’s occupation including a diploma from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy (1873), a membership certificate to the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association (1883), a membership certificate to the American Pharmaceutical Association (1884), and a license to work as a pharmacist in New York City (1890).

Note: The portraits had been removed from the album prior to the processing of this collection.

Series IV. Dr. Edmund W. Allen, 1788-1867.

1 folder.

Dr. Edmund W. Allen was married to Sarah Throckmorton. He purchased the Allen House on the corner of Broad Street and Sycamore Avenue in 1812 because the extra room on the side of the house could be used as his office and pharmacy.

Dr. Allen was a member of the Medical Society of Monmouth County and served as its president from 1824-1825.

This series includes Edmund W. Allen’s certificate to practice as a physician and surgeon in the State of New Jersey (1810) and his last will and testament (1867).

Edmund and Sarah were Maggie’s grandparents.

Series V. Joseph Allen Jr. and Elizabeth Williams.

1 oversized folder.

Includes the marriage certificate of Joseph Allen Jr. and Elizabeth Williams, 16 June 1785 at the Shrewsbury Quaker Meeting House. Joseph Allen Jr. (1763-1837) and Elizabeth Williams (1763-1807) were the parents of Dr. Edmund W. Allen.

Series VI. Cutter Family.

1 folder.

Maggie's mother was Elizabeth Cutter Allen, daughter of Dr. Smith Cutter and Mrs. Nancy Gantly Cutter, New York City and Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, New Jersey. They were married 2 February 1802 in New York.

In addition to Elizabeth, Dr. and Mrs. Cutter also had a daughter named Louise (who was a student at Bethlehem Academy from 1826-1830).

For many years the Cutter family lived on Sycamore Avenue, west of the Allen House at the corner of Sycamore and Broad Street. Edmund T. and Elizabeth Allen lived with Dr. Cutter in the 1860s and 1870s, according to the United States Federal Censuses for those years.

Later the Cutter Family moved to a home on West Front Street in Red Bank.

Series VII. Allen House.

4 folders. 1 oversized folder.

This series contains information about the Allen House located on the corner of Sycamore Avenue and Broad Street in Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, New Jersey. It is currently owned and operated by Monmouth County Historical Association, Freehold.

Documents in this series include a copy of the original deed to Judah Allen (1670), indenture between John and Eleanor Croes and Jacob Corlies and Edmund W. Allen (1824), land transfer between Isaac Pintard and Jacob Corlies and Edmund W. Allen (1828), indenture between George Corlies (executor of Jacob Corlies' estate) and Edmund W. Allen (1862), and paperwork associated with the estate of Jeanette Allen (1913).

As sole survivor of this family line, Maggie Allen sold the Allen House in 1927. She moved to New York City and lived at the Hotel Webster and The Latham Hotel until 1950 when poor health necessitated her move to a nursing home. She lived at the Ivy Nursing Home in Middletown until her death in 1959.

Also included in this series are photocopied newspaper clippings and photographs of the Allen House.

CONTAINER LIST

BOX # / FILE # / CONTENTS

- 1 / 1 / Maggie Allen Papers
- 1 / 2 / Maggie Allen's Church Booklets and Confirmation Certificate
- 1 / 3 / Maggie Allen's Journals
- 1 / 4 / Maggie Allen's European Vacation - 1929; Ship Information
- 1 / 5 / Maggie Allen's European Vacation - 1929; Souvenir Pamphlets & Brochures
- 1 / 6 / Maggie Allen's European Vacation - 1929; Postcards
- 1 / 7 / Maggie Allen's European Vacation - 1929; Postcard Books
- 1 / 8 / Maggie Allen's Travel Receipts & Souvenirs
- 2 / 1 / Edmund T. Allen and Elizabeth Cutter Allen

2 / 2 / Dr. William Nicholas and Sarah Allen Nicholas
2 / 3 / Dr. William Nicholas and Sarah Allen Nicholas' Photo Album
2 / 3 / Dr. Edmund W. Allen – Last Will and Testament (1867)
2 / 4 / Cutter Family Papers
2 / 5 / Allen Family History
2 / 6 / Allen House Deeds and Indentures
2 / 7 / Allen House Clippings
2 / 8 / Allen House Photographs

See oversized box for oversized items.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

For additional information about the Allen Family or the Allen House, please see:

- Adelberg, Michael S., Monographs about Monmouth County during the Revolutionary War, 1997.
- Metzger, Mary C., Faunal Remains and Consumption Patterns at the Allen House. (Private printing, 2001).
- Monmouth County Historical Association Collections Alphabetical: CA 39 Corlies Family Papers
- Monmouth County Historical Association Photograph Collection: Portraits of the Cutter Family, Edmund T. Allen, Edmund W. Allen, Elizabeth Cutter Allen, George Cutter Allen, Jeanette Allen, Maggie Allen, Nellie Allen, Sarah Allen, Dr. William Nicholas, and Sarah Nicholas.
- Monmouth County Historical Association Subject File: Allen House
- Monmouth County Historical Association Subjects Alphabetical: SA 121 Marriage Certificates/Licenses
- Monmouth County Historical Association Subjects Alphabetical: SA 37 Deeds
- Traver, Jerome D., Archaeological data recovery at an eighteenth and nineteenth century farmstead, Red Bank, Monmouth County, New Jersey. (Newark, DE: MAAR Associates, Ind., 1988).
- Veit, Richard Francis, Digging New Jersey's Past : Historical Archaeology in the Garden State. (Newark: Rutgers University Press, 2002).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allen Family History donated with collection. Compiler unknown.
- Brinley, Lena. The Allen Family. (Long Branch: Unpublished).
- Ellis, Franklin. History of Monmouth County New Jersey. (Shrewsbury: Shrewsbury Historical Society, 1974.)
- Rogoff, Bernadette. Allen House History (Freehold: Monmouth County Historical Association, 2012).
- Stillwell, John E. Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, Vol. 2. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1970).
- United States Federal Census - 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1930, 1940.