

The reasons assigned by skeptics for doubting the existence of a Supreme Ruler of the universe are so many and varied that it would be impossible for me to attempt meeting them all in the brief space usually occupied by contributors to this journal. Neither do I intend to quote scripture to those who doubt its inspiration. My object is to suggest a few thoughts for the consideration of thinkers.

VOICES OF THE PAST

First. There is unlimited space.

Second. There is unlimited time.

Third. There is unlimited intelligence. From due consideration of these three propositions, I conclude that there must be a

Fourth. Namely, unlimited power, wisdom and benevolence.

The first proposition, I admit, is not demonstrable; but it is a hypothesis universally admitted. Should we say, There is a limit to space, the question would very naturally arise: What is there on the other side? I think we may consider this proposition settled, especially as I address myself to thinkers only.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JAMES X ALLEN

That there is unlimited space, there is no one known to me, well-read thinker will deny. Conceivable, parts of the universe are varied. This second proposition is simply a measure of time, beginning or an ending.



consented to. Of course, I do not mean to say, me. But I opine that no one will deny, as well as all known, as well as all known, though their measurements are of the same nature as the first. I think we may conceive of either a

Perhaps it would not be difficult to find a few of the various times of which we are cognizant. Thus the civil day is from midnight to midnight. The astronomer's day is from high noon to high noon; while the scriptural day is from sunset to sunset: "And the evening and the morning was the first day," etc. A day on this earth is about twenty-four hours, while a day on the sun is some twenty-five times as long; while a day on Mars is but forty minutes longer than with us. Jupiter, although thirteen hundred times larger than the earth, has a day but five twelfths as long.

COLLECTED PAPERS, LETTERS, AND RECORDS

This persistence of time is deducible from two ascertained facts: namely, the indestructibility of matter, and the universality of law and order.

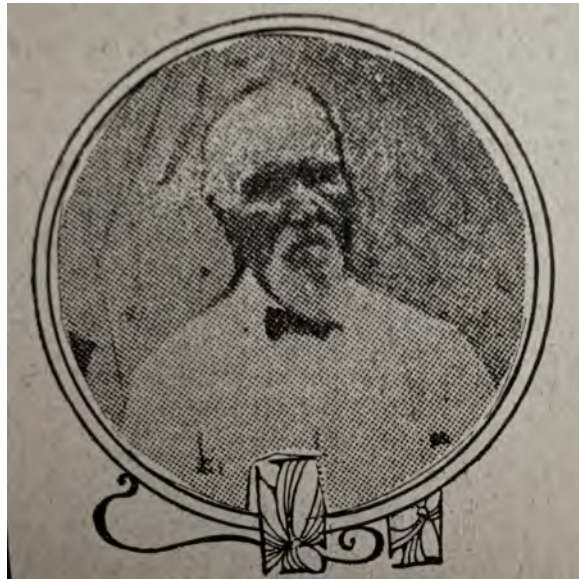
EDITOR

From spectral analysis, philosophy, and other sources, it is known that the constituent elements of all worlds are pretty much the same, and that these elements are non-perishable.

GREG EVANS

VOICES OF THE PAST

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JAMES X ALLEN



COLLECTED PAPERS, LETTERS, AND RECORDS

**EDITOR
GREG EVANS**

Dedication

*To the Memory of
Samuel Allen Burgess
15 Sept 1877 – 25 Nov 1950*

*His efforts to preserve family history
make possible this collection.*

VOICES OF THE PAST

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JAMES X ALLEN

COLLECTED PAPERS, LETTERS, AND RECORDS

**EDITOR
GREG EVANS**

**JULY 2020
THIRD EDITION**

James X Allen Timeline

1830's

- 1830 Parents John Allen and Ann Bedford (age 17) are married at Silkstone Church on May 31. James is born in Barnsley (Yorkshire, England) on November 19 to John and Ann Allen.
- 1833 Baptized at age 2½ at Thornhill Church on July 22. Father's occupation is listed as laborer. Father dies and mother Ann becomes a widow at age 20; James is 2 years old.
- 1837 James works at age 6 in a weaver's factory.
A neighborhood cobbler teaches him the alphabet.

1840's

- 1842 James is baptized as a member of the LDS church at age 11 by missionary Thomas Brown.

1850's

James in his 20's

- 1853 Immigrates on the *Golconda*. (Occupation Linen Weaver.) Meets Betsey Pidd at while at sea. Visits Nauvoo and meets with the mother of Mormon Church founder Joseph Smith, Jr. Travels with Betsey and Sarah Pidd from Keokuk to Nebraska with Joseph Young Company. Travels from Nebraska to Utah with the Vincent Shurtleff Freight Company. Drives a wagon.
- 1854 Marries Betsey Pidd in Little Cottonwood, Utah on January 11.
Lives and works 400 miles east of Little Cottonwood at Mormon Ferry, Wyoming in July.
- 1855 First daughter Bertha Ann born in May.
- 1856 Second daughter Eveline born in September (near Ogden).
Mother immigrates to Utah (exact date uncertain but sometime between 1854 and 1857).
- 1857 Mother weds Abraham Palmer in February; marriage is sealed in Salt Lake City temple in April.
- 1858 Third daughter Sybilia born in June (near Ogden).
- 1859 Relocates from Utah to St Joseph, Missouri where he buys property in August as "James Allen".

1860's

James in his 30's

- 1860 School teacher in St Joseph, Missouri. Lives with his wife, their three daughters, and his mother. Adds a middle initial "X" to his name to disambiguate his mail deliveries (year is approximate).
- 1861 Son William Ptolemy born in October.
- 1862 Enlists as "James X Allen" in the Union Army. Wardmaster for 5th *Missouri Cavalry* in March. Private in the 5th *Missouri Infantry Hospital Corps* in May.
Son William Ptolemy (age 10 mo.) dies in August.
Discharged for insubordination from 5th *Missouri Infantry Hospital Corps* in September.
Re-enlists. Private in 35th *Regiment* of the Missouri Infantry's Hospital Corps in October.
Serves as a surgeon for the Union Army in the Mississippi Valley campaigns from 1862 to 1863.
- 1865 Discharged from 35th *Regiment* of the Missouri Infantry's Hospital Corps in May.
- 1866 Relocates from St Joseph to St Louis before August when Franklin was born.
Son Franklin Henry Allen born in August.
Enrolls at *St Louis Medical College*.
- 1867 Graduates from *St Louis Medical College*. Sets up an office at his home on 1019 Morgan Street.
- 1868 Elder in RLDS church. Organizes *Sisters of Dorcas*. Teaches Latin to Samuel R Burgess (age 17).

1870's

James in his 40's

- 1870 Physician and lives with wife Betsey, their four children, and his mother.
- 1872 Becomes a Mason. Junior warden in Missouri Lodge No. 1. Later is 32nd degree Mason.
- 1874 Worshipful Master of Missouri Lodge No. 1
Daughter Bertha marries Alexander Greer in February.
- 1876 Wife Betsey leaves him relocates from St Louis to Alex Greer's farm in Pleasanton, Iowa.
Daughter Eveline marries Samuel Rostron Burgess on July 4.
- 1877 Relocates from St Louis to Ogden.
Grandson Samuel Allen Burgess born in September.
Judge grants his wife Betsey a divorce on October 22 in Ogden.
Marries Ellen Stevens on October 29 in Ogden.
- 1878 Daughter Sybilia marries T. Boner Zenor in March.

- 1879 Ordained into the *Quorum of High Priests* of LDS Church in August. Serves as its Secretary.
Dropped from a committee that is writing a history of the LDS Church for an encyclopedia.
Granddaughter Florence Burgess born in July
Granddaughter Elizabeth May Zenor born in May

1880's James in his 50's

- 1880 Physician in Ogden. Lives with his wife Ellen, her daughter Nellie (age 7), and his mother.
Granddaughter Bertha Zenor born in September.
- 1881 Judge grants wife Ellen a divorce on grounds of physically abusing her in September.
Granddaughter Bertha Zenor dies at age 11 months on August 4.
Grandson Arthur Burgess born on August 4.
Granddaughter Eveline Zenor born in December.
- 1882 James (age 61) marries recent English immigrant Julia Augusta Morgan (age 25) on January 5.
Daughter Beatrice Augusta born in November.
- 1883 Mother dies on April 12. Her headstone is inscribed *Ann Palmer*.
Elected a member of the *Astronomical Society of the Pacific*
Grandson Harold Burgess born in August
- 1884 Daughter Julia Clarissa (called "Clara") born in November.
- 1887 Son James Reed (called "Reed") born in June
- 1888 Summarizes his medical education to L H Nichols (for Hubert Bancroft) in May.
Granddaughter Sybil Burgess born in June
Son Franklin marries first wife Mary Brown in September
- 1889 Grandson Ralph X Allen born in September

1890's James in his 60's

- 1891 First wife Betsy re-marries to James Anderson, brother of William Anderson.
- 1892 Granddaughter Bertha Budge Allen born in April.
Grandson Boner Zenor born in October.
- 1893 Daughter Veda Viola born in September.
- 1898 Granddaughter Eveline Zenor dies at age 17 in October.
- 1899 Son Franklin marries second wife Alma Mae Porter.

1900's James in his 70's

- 1900 Physician in Ogden. Lives with wife Julia and four children
- 1901 Secretary at the 1901 convention of the *Democratic Party* in October.
- 1903 Grandson Samuel Allen Burgess visits him in Ogden in July.
Son Franklin, a piano salesman, seeks sales to Ogden schools in November.
- 1904 *Gifts of the Tongue and Thoughts for the Mildly Skeptical* published in *Improvement Era*.
Medical director of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) of Utah
Daughter Julia Clarissa (Clara) marries Ernest Stone.
- 1905 Granddaughter Katherine Stone born in November
- 1906 President of the Ogden Council of Physicians
Delegate to a convention of the *Democratic Party* in October
Daughter Beatrice marries future Hollywood film actor/director Horace Carpenter.
- 1907 Daughter Eveline becomes US Women's Chess Champion. James taught her chess.
Son Reed dies at age 20 in June, in part from after effects of a 1905 streetcar accident.
- 1908 Son Franklin has piano store in Ogden; He audits his father and step-mother's finances.
Grandson Allen Stone born in March.

1910's James in his 80's

- 1910 Physician in Ogden. Lives with his wife Julia and their daughter Veda Viola.
Travels to St Louis for a week-long-stay with his daughter Eveline Burgess in June.
- 1911 Granddaughter Marjorie Stone born in March.
Granddaughter Sybil Burgess announces engagement to Gomer Louis Evans in April.
Granddaughter Beatrice Azalea Carpenter born in August.
Granddaughter Beatrice Carpenter dies (age 1 month) at his Ogden home in September.
Dies at home in Ogden on December 27 of heart failure at age 81.

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Editor's Preface

Voices of the Past, as the title suggests, is like a human soundtrack to its companion volume, *Saints Seekers Settlers Spirits*. Based primarily upon secondary sources, the latter has the visuals (like a silent film) but lacks emotions supplied by a soundtrack. *Voices of the Past* contains primary sources - Allen's journal, letters, and poetry - and gives us intimate and unfiltered access to his mind as well as the perspectives of several individuals who knew him well: his daughter Bertha, his son Franklin, his wife Julia, and his grandson Samuel.

"*There passes the greatest mind in Utah!*" James Allen's life in *Saints Seekers Settlers and Spirits* led me to a similar conclusion, but my knowing that Samuel Burgess spoke these words upon hearing of his father-in-law's death¹ fills an *emotional* gap for me. Similarly, that James's mother influenced him could be inferred, but knowing that James was an only child and that his father died when he was two years old² fills a *factual* gap in the record.

The power of *Voices of the Past* lies in its ability to fill these and other emotional and factual gaps in my biography of James X Allen in *Saints Seekers Settlers and Spirits*. I wrote it before I learned of the existence of most of the documents in *Voices*. For example the quote "*There passes the greatest mind in Utah!*" comes from a condolence letter written to James's widow by his grandson Samuel Allen Burgess. A copy survives because Sam made one. He kept it and letters James Allen had sent to him and much more. Samuel Burgess's preservation of his family history makes possible this collection and so I chose to dedicate it to his memory.

Organization of the Collection

I have prepared a one-page introduction for each of the 45 documents in the collection. I use them I share my observations and add historical context. Each introduction begins and ends with short excerpts. In between these quotes is a list of key facts about the document: its author, its recipient, its date, where it was created, and where I found it.

The originals for the majority of papers in this collection reside at the *Community of Christ Church*. I visited it in Independence, Missouri in March 2014 when church archivist Rachel Killebrew and her assistant Barbara Bernauer kindly allowed me to view and photograph the manuscripts. After returning home I used *Microsoft Word's* Dictation tool to transcribe them into Word documents that I then edited to create the versions in this collection.

Notes on the Editorial Procedure

I tailored the editing as seemed appropriate to the document, but always attempted an accurate word-by-word transcription. Missing text is indicated by an insertion of (...) and illegible text with my best guess of the intended word followed by a (?). **Bold** face or text placed inside brackets [like this] are additions by me. ~~Strikethrough~~ and underlined text replicate markings in the original manuscript. The punctuation and spellings in his *Journal* are what a modern stenographer would have typed if he had spoken rather than written it.

¹ From Document 42 in the collection: a letter from Samuel Allen Burgess to Julia Morgan Allen.

² From Document 45 in the collection: an autobiography written by Eveline Allen Burgess.

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VOICES OF THE PAST

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JAMES X ALLEN

COLLECTED PAPERS, LETTERS, AND RECORDS

**AND THE HOUSE,
WHEN IT WAS IN BUILDING,
WAS BUILT OF STONE
MADE READY BEFORE IT
WAS BROUGHT THITHER:
SO THAT THERE WAS
NEITHER HAMMER NOR
AXE NOR ANY TOOL OF
IRON HEARD IN THE
HOUSE, WHILE IT WAS IN
BUILDING.**

1 KINGS 6:7 (KJV)

"I had the Happiness of taking to wife Elizabeth Pidd. ... She is of a fair complexion with Dark Brown Hair with frank and open countenance, spirits cheerful, and of the middle stature."

Document 1 1853 – 1854 James Allen's Journal

Author: James Allen
Dates: March 1853 – July 1854
Written at: Ship *Golconda*, New Orleans, Keokuk, Nauvoo, Utah, Wyoming
Type: Handwritten Notebook
Photo Nos.: 2169 – 2184
Source: Archives P104 F59

Editor's Introduction:

In 1836 James Allen was a poor 6-year old fatherless only-child living in Yorkshire, England working in a factory. A kind cobbler taught him the alphabet, he taught himself read while working at his loom, and his mother exposed him to the Bible. By age 11 he had been baptized a latter-day saint and at age 22 in January 1853 he boarded the Mormon ship *Golconda* in Liverpool and sailed to America.

This journal offers valuable insights into James Allen as a young man. Its contents - poetic in several places - displays a wide range of emotions from gratitude to reverence to happiness to despair. We discover a self-confident man who is devoted to his faith and to the mother he left behind in England.

Selected quotes:

"On the 24th we landed into New Orleans about 4:00 PM. after a very pleasant passage up the river. The beautiful green trees and pretty flowers contrasted so very much with the blue waves that our hearts leaped with joy at the sight of nature all blooming and smiling around..."

"And miserable as the last night might have been, its faults were now drowned in the waters of oblivion, for our present condition was ninety and one degrees below what we have ever experienced before. ..."

"I do not know where I shall go to live. I do not think that I shall live at Little Cottonwood much longer. I love the people there but as the land is not good I think that I better go elsewhere. Give my love to brother and sister Griffiths ... and to as many as you please or deem worthy ... Dear wife, adieu J. Allen"

James Allen's Journal

1853: Liverpool to New Orleans

[an unknown number of missing pages]

[69] ... all the while for which I do thank the Lord.

On the following morning I went upon deck and to my astonishment instead of beholding 3 lofty masts with their heads towering high for the sky in their [sail] majestic still, my eyes were accosted by three stump[s] resembling as many gateposts and secret of our alarm I now discovered to be the dislocation of all our main top masts [70] which act had been done by the wind. And I was thankful to learn that not one soul had been injured amidst it all. The loss of our masts we felt very much as we were for a whole week and made little or no progress whatsoever. We have on board two carpenters of our own by whose help 3 main top masts were made and rigged out of some spare yards the top-gallant masts we could not master so that after all we could // not carry near the quantity of canvas we did ere we had our misfortune.

Since that time nothing particular has occurred with regard to our sailing. We came to anchor at the river's mouth on Friday, March the 11th when it was extremely foggy. The pilot, a stout and noble Yankee-looking man, came on board on Sunday. There are many more vessels around us and the tides - not being at their height - the steamers do but get them very slowly over the bar of sand that crosses the mouth [71] of the river [so] that our turn has not yet come but we are expecting a steamer soon.

I understand that there have been 4 births on board and 2 or 3 weddings. There have also been 2 deaths - one child that was born after we had been a week at sea and died when little more than a week old. It was put into a wooden coffin and a weight attached to it for the purpose of sinking it, but it had not its desired // effect. I stood and saw the coffin slide into the water and disappear out of sight and immediately rise again to the surface of the water and float. I watched it for a long while until at last disappeared in the distance.

In regard to the troubles to be encountered at sea, they are less by far than I had previously anticipated. In fact I may say that I have had none as yet and that I do not mean to have any. [??] I can safely say that should a Brother sit down by the side of his comfortable fire and for one ten minutes contemplate on the sacrifices of his home in the dangers of the sea, he will have more trouble in that short space of time that I have had since I left Sheffield as mean to have on this side [of] the mountains.

The Captain has very kind and the crew has been very sociable, too. // The brethren who have presided over us have also studied our good and extended themselves to make us peaceable and happy.

When we had found out about a fortnight the weather became very hot and remained so until we came to this place and it is now somewhat cooler. Peace, union, and health have been on very frequently times with us all the way, which I think will be the case [72] all the way home.

We are now getting short of provisions and our water is not fit to drink [and] so that I believe that the Lord will soon send a boat to take us up the river.

On the 24th we landed into New Orleans about 4:00 PM. after a very pleasant passage up the river. The beautiful green trees and pretty flowers contrasted so very much with the blue waves that our hearts leaped with joy at the sight of // nature all blooming and smiling around.

1853: New Orleans to Keokuk

I was the first to step onshore on our arrival and for the first time for more than eight weeks did I in very deed enjoy a walk on land and for the first time in my life upon American soil.

We remained in New Orleans for four days during which time I enjoyed myself in viewing the city and visiting some of my old acquaintances from Hull and Sister Davison from Doncaster at whose house I washed my [73] clothes. On the 28th we went on board the steamer Illorn (?) and after ten days and eleven nights spent on board this slow-motined and miserable boat we found ourselves at St. Louis where I again hastened on shore and walked myself hungry and fatigued. We remained there until dusk at night when we were put on board the *Kate Kenny*, another steamboat for Keokuk. And miserable as the last night might have been, its faults were now drowned in the waters of oblivion, // for our present condition was ninety and one degrees below what we have ever experienced before. We had little or nothing to cook in the meanest convenience for cooking with no place

to sit down or sleep at night, and the most filthy and cruelest (?) spot that I hope to set foot in during my whole life.

After 2 nights and one day we found ourselves at Keokuk, 225 miles up the Mississippi River in the state of Iowa, twelve miles below [74] the city of Nauvoo.

1853: Keokuk

It was a Sunday morning when we landed and the city was tolerably quiet. Our goods were soon put on shore and hauled to the camping ground situated near the river's side on the top of a hill about a mile from the landing place. An attempt to describe our feelings on beholding the wagons and tents already pitched (by the Welsh Saints came over the sea in the ship *Jersey* which // passed us while we lay at the bar) would be vain. Some shouted. Some sung and danced with joy.

We landed here on the 10th of April and by the kind assistance of Brother C. H. Wheelock³ and the Welsh saints, we had all our luggage got upon the camping grounds and into wagons and the wagons arranged side-by-side - every wagon standing east and west with our tents he arranged about three yards behind the wagons forming a beautiful st[reet] running [75] north and south. In the afternoon we had meeting and were addressed by Elders Wheelock, Speakman⁴, and Rostron⁵, and greatly did we enjoy ourselves in being privileged to meet together and worship the Lord once on land; and

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³ Cyrus Wheelock (1814-1894)

⁴ William Speakman (1816-1872)

⁵ Richard Rostron (1827-?)

more especially did we rejoice in being thus highly blest above so many of our brethren scattered throughout the nations.

We were not long on the ground ere we went to the woods for sticks and to the river for water and just // as quick as possible had we our pots and pans in full go. All hands were engaged and I do believe that all hearts were merry and that all were rejoiced more by the kind attention paid them by Elders Shurtleff and Wheelock, which far exceeded anything that we had experienced since the time that we left our native homes and the scenes of early childhood.

I remained with the camp for several days, when I in company with Bro. John Reese went out about three miles out on the Bluff [76] road and got work at one Mr. Collin's where we remained for three weeks, but in consequence of the weather being wet we got very little money. We washed our clothes and went back to the camp.

1853: Nauvoo

On the last day of April I went to Nauvoo and beheld the desolate city once the pride and delight of the people of God and the remains of the beautiful white stone temple situated at the summit of the hill. I viewed with mingled feelings of pleasure and sorrow, // delighted in being privileged to gaze upon the house dedicated to the Lord and in which he had bestowed great blessings on [h]is saints, in giving unto them his most holy spirit with the precious gift of the priesthood after the order of Jesus the humble Nazarene, now seated at the righted (sic) hand his father in the heavens, but sorry to

behold it in its ruined state and to be looked on by the eyes [77] of the ungodly; and that too with feelings of triumph over the exiled sons and daughters of Israel.

Though the temple is beautiful even in its ruins and its magnificent and bold front stands with its head towering towards the blue sky as though bidding defiance to its enemies. And looking with contempt upon its unrighteous neighbors and vile intentions (?) upon the consecrated soil of the people of God.

1853: Visit with Prophet's Widow and Mother in Nauvoo

After looking over the city and ranging (?) through the // Nauvoo house, I went to the house built by the prophet a short time prior to his martyrdom. Now a temperance Hotel kept by Major Bidamon⁶ who had taken to wife the prophet Joseph's widow. I had a short conversation with Mrs. Bidamon and was introduced to old mother Smith who lay sick in bed, but on my being introduced to her she raised yourself up in bed and extended her hand to me [78] asking if I came from England and were I proposing going to the valley to live with the Mormons; I answered in the affirmative at which she appeared somewhat surprised and asked me if I could not make my [home] in that neighborhood, or, in some other neighboring states. She stated land was cheap, and the soil rich, and that work was plentiful and wages good, and that I might serve the Lord there as well as anywhere else. She talked much about

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⁶ Lewis Bidamon (1806-1891). A Lt. Col. in the Illinois militia was called "Major Bidamon".

// Brigham Young and the people who follow him, stating that the former was an Usurper, and was pronounced by her son while alive, and in her hearing. She also spoke much against polygamy and produced a passage from the Book of Mormon to prove it false. The old lady was very much affected and spoke warmly. Our conversation lasted for the space of an hour and a half - when I left and went to Montrose and there [79] remained all night.

1853: Keokuk to Great Salt Lake

After remaining another week or so at Keokuk, we started for winter quarters. Joseph Young being the President of the company in which I trained (?). After several weeks of traveling we reached Kanessville⁷, where I left the company and went to the Vincent Shurtleff⁸ to drive a team laden with merchandise belonging to the iron company - in which the company I traveled to the valley of the Great Salt Lake // and arrived here Sept. 28 making a trip of 1035 miles in 11 weeks, having no deaths and but little sickness. As to the incidents of our journey I had kept no minute account of them.

1853: Utah

2 days after my arrival, through the kind aid and recommendation Bro. Shurtleff, I succeeded in an order sent to England for my mother.

And the same day was employed by Mr. S. C. Snyder⁹ of G. S. C. who agreed to

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⁷ Later Council Bluffs, Iowa and the historic starting point for the Mormon Trail.

⁸ Vincent Shurtleff (1814-1893)

⁹ Samuel Comstock Snyder (1808-1886)

give me 18 dollars a month for a year and board and lodge me. [80] But after being with him one month and never sleeping the first night in a bed nor having the first article washed and not being able to get to get any money, I left him. He promises to pay me in the spring.

November 1 I went to Little Cottonwood to see Thomas Brown¹⁰ from Doncaster who baptized me in the year 1842. (I was re-baptized a week after coming into the valley and on the 9th of October was ordained into the 14th quorum of seventies.) I remained at his house that night and went to work with him next day and the same // night engaged to work for Brothers Foot and Adamson, for board, washing, and lodgings, and 5 c.t. of flour a month. I lived comfortably with them. After near upon 2 months frost and snow came and prohibited me from working more.

1854: Utah

January 11th. I had the Happiness of taking to wife Elizabeth Pidd. (Daughter of Adonijah and Ann Pidd.) Born April 28, 1832. Whaplode Washway, Lincolnshire, England. She is of a fair complexion with Dark Brown Hair with [81] frank and open countenance, spirits cheerful, and of the middle stature.

A WEDDING PRAYER

Oh Lord bless out our union,
And make our hearts as one,
With thee give us communion
Give us the love of thy Dear son,

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¹⁰ Thomas Brown (1821-1867) is also mentioned in 1911 Ogden Tribune Obit.

Our lives to thee we dedicate,
Our father and our all,
Thy praise we love to celebrate
And on thy name to call.

Forgive us of our trespasses
And pardon all our sin,
With blessings do thou bless us
E'en, so Father, Amen

MARCH 1854: UNION, UTAH

March 28th I moved into my new house which I // had builded me in the city of Union situated upon the little Cottonwood Creek 11 miles south of Great Salt Lake City the cost of which house was \$130.

On Wednesday the 29th day of March, my wife Elizabeth was taken seriously ill, and on the same night miscarried her child, which was a girl. She was not long ill, but in two weeks was able to do her housework.

On the 26th day of March my wife Elizabeth was sealed to me for eternity; in the [82] council house at Great Salt Lake City by F. D. Richards¹¹. Also on the same day, was Sarah Pidd (elder sister to my wife) sealed to Joseph Griffiths¹², who had a wife and a large family at the same time.

About the middle of May, Brother John Martin¹³ (an old acquaintance of mine, from England but [who] had lived in California the last two years) he had returned with \$350. He expressed [h]is

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¹¹ Franklin Dewey Richards (1821-1899)

¹² Joseph Griffiths (1816-1860)

¹³ John Martin (1828-1915)

intention of going to Green River for the purpose of trading with the ~~Indians~~ Emigrants. In consequence of many unfavorable ...//

[Missing pages. When it resumes, James Allen in Wyoming and in the middle of what appears to be a letter]

... the chances for making money are good, if a man has money and wisdom. Martin has but little of the first and less of the latter. He has 4 head of cattle, 1 horse, and some small trifle (sic) of money, and might do well even yet would he keep from the gambling table; but I see no hope of his doing so.

I have received one letter from Lucy Potter of Sheffield, you would hear of my name being on the list for 2 letters but only one of them was mine.¹⁴ Lucy is not coming until 1855. Martin and I are at Keeney's Ferry which is 9 miles above the Mormon ferry¹⁵. I am going down on [83] Thursday to meet the mail, and send this note, and I perchance (?) be able to come home with it. Please write me as soon as you can

Yours truly, J. Allen

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¹⁴ Problems with mail deliveries would be his motivation to later add an initial "X" to his name.

¹⁵ The Mormon Ferry was in Wyoming and the crossed the Platte River almost 400miles from Union.

Green River Ferry¹⁶ July 11th / 54

I for several days have been anxiously
gazing Westerly for the mail, and yet no
mail comes. Many persons have come
from the city bringing packages of
letters but none for me, ___ you were
afraid of me taking up my abode at this
place. Let your fears cease. I do not
know where I shall go to live. I do not
think that I shall live at Little
Cottonwood much longer. I love the
people there but, as the land is not good
I think that [I] // better go elsewhere.
Give my love to brother and sister
Griffiths, to father and mother Fautoish
(?), and to as many as you please, or
deem worthy.

A CLOSING PRAYER

I thank thee Oh! My father,
For the comforts of thy grace,
I asked of thee deliverance,
From this wicked place.

Thou hast been kind and loved me,
In days that are gone by,
I pray thee to watch o'er me,
Henceforth until I die.

Bless my wife I pray thee,
The partner of my life,
Thy servant gave her to me,
We'd (?) have eternal lives.

Our lives to thee we dedicate,
We give to thee our all, [84]
Our hearts and utmost labors,
Thy work to onwards roll.

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¹⁶ The Green River Ferry was in southwest Wyoming, more than 180 miles east of Union, Utah where wife Betsey was living at the time.

We love thy laws and precepts,
We love to have thy grace.
And to enjoy the blessings,
Of thy Gospel grace.

Save us in thy Kingdom,
Exult us both on high,
With all the blest in Jesus,
Who have or yet may die.

I pray thee also Father,
To bless my mother too,
With health and strength of body,
And buoyant spirits too.

Bless all who love thy gospel,
And live up to the same,
Who walk as humble followers
Of Jesus Christ the Lamb.

Dear wife adieu¹⁷ (?), J. Allen

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¹⁷ Unclear the meaning of "adieu". James returned to Utah before Sept 1854 because Bertha Allen was conceived about that time.

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*When Mississippi's mouth we found,
What joy in every heart,
The air with anthems did resound
Great God how good thou art!*

Document 2 1853 Poem - *The Voyage of the Golconda*

Author: James Allen
Date: March 1853
Written At: *Golconda*, New Orleans
Type: Handwritten
Photo Nos.: 2192-2195
Source: Archives P104 F59

Editor's Introduction:

While onboard the *Golconda* James Allen met two sisters from Lincolnshire who were traveling together: Sarah and Elizabeth Pidd. Elizabeth "Betsey" Pidd, six years younger than Sarah, would marry James in Utah about nine months later.

Several of James's fellow passengers receive mention in his poem. In addition to Betsey (Stanzas 7-11, 17-22, 34) and her sister Sarah (Stanza 29) were a couple James was lodging with in Sheffield – Emma and Samuel Sudbury of Sheffield (Stanza 28), and two other eligible young women – Elizabeth Pitt from Worcester (Stanza 24, 25) and Sophia Woods from East Dereham (Stanza 26).

Also noteworthy is the reference he makes to his mother in Stanza 5. From this and other documents, one gets the strong impression that he was close to his mother, Ann. She lived with him the last decades of her life and through his two divorces.

Selected quotes:

*The dolphin played beneath the bow
The sailors hawed the quid -
be happier none knew how,
Than I and Betsey Pidd.*

*One day the wind got in a freak-
And on us made a dash-
The ropes were snapped-each mast did break;
And dreadful was the splash*

The Voyage of the Golconda
By James Allen

1

In eighteen hundred - fifty three
I left my native shore;
And hundreds more as well as me,
Left to return no more.

2

January twenty-second -
The day I well remember -
I know the time - most to a second,
T'was cold as in December.

3

The anchor weighed -the sails
unfurled-
Friends waved their hats onshore,
While some on high their kerchiefs
twirled,
And cried their eyes quite sore.

4

The joys and sorrows of that day,
My pen cannot describe;
some did laugh and some did pray,
While some most sorely cried.

5

Some left father - I, a mother
Just had parted from.
Some a sister – some a brother,
Spied in the distant throng.

6

This one a lover - that a friend
Was bidding an adieu;
Another said he'd money send
To fetch his pretty Sue.

7

While on the sea, I chanced to meet
A smiling, lovely face;
The time pass on so very sweet,
I thought those days of grace.

8

A British damsel, young and blythe,
Beguiled my time away;
To vie in converse some would strive,
but Betsy won the day.

9

Her laughing eyes and cherry lips,
Were so much bewitching.
O'er the deck she lightly trips,
Hopping, jumping, skipping.

10

Her songs were many – sweetly sung-
All loved them for to hear.
Many were there with stouter lung,
But none with voice so clear.

11

She was an angel to me then,
her countenance of Love,
Indeed you'd think her born again,
Or dropped from heaven above.

12

The gentle winds from Brittan's coast-
Our canvass soon did swell.
Soon England to our sights was lost,
Loved native land - farewell.

13

We do not leave our native shore
because we love it not;
We do not leave friends by the score
Because that we've forgot.

14

That merry England gave us breath -
That Brittons us begot -
That England lacked genuine worth-
We traveled forth like Lot:

15

Believing that our God did call,
And to obey his will;
We journeyed forth - one and all
In search of Zion's hill.

16

Yeah like unto the wife of Lot,
Some sighed for childhood's scenes;
And longing gazed upon the spot,
The land of Kings and Queens.

17

But who could sorrow in a bark
Where so much beauty dwelt?
Where one as cheerful as a lark
Her smiles profusely dealt?

18

Where fluttered like a butter fly,
From group to group so gay,
A maid of dark and laughing eye
With voice so full of play?

19

The dolphin played beneath the bow
The sailors hawed the quid -
To be happier none knew how,
Than I and Betsey Pidd.

20

We talked of home of bygone days
Of things which used to be;
Of little children's pretty ways
When dangling on the knee.

21

What more we thought - what more
we said
Is not for one to tell
Though I confess that through my
head
Strange thoughts ran like pell mell.

22

We glided on for days and weeks,
By gentle breezes borne;
I'll ne'er forget the rosey cheeks,
then by my Betsey worn.

23

I would not have you think that I,
No other beauty saw,
For many more with winning eye,
Sparked each with other beau.

24

There a Miss Pitt with pretty face,
Though somewhat too sedate,
The wooer's circle deigned to grace,
And highly did she rate.

25

Her stature tall and neatly shaped -
Her features Grecian were-
From 'neath her muslin shyly peeped,
Small feet - Ah! What a pair!

26

And one young man whose name was
Woods,
A man of pedigree,
wooed such a lovely piece of goods
As e'er wooed on the sea.

27

Some had late been joined together,
I mean of course in marriage,
And promised soon to have a heir;
Except fooled by miscarriage.

28

One noble pair I cannot forget,
The name was Sudbury;
Indeed I love them much - and yet
We seldom could agree.

29

Then sister Sarah, lack a day
If I could see her now,
Had piety so deeply stamped
Upon her noble brow.

30

And many others I might name
Who took a jovial part;
In sweetening life upon the mane-
They're dear unto my heart.

31

One day the wind got in a freak-
And on us made a dash-
The ropes were snapped-each mast
did break;
And dreadful was the splash.

32

The blocks and tackle fell like hail
On every part the deck:
The women screamed, the men looked
pale;
Some of the sea were sick.

33

Without a mast, without a sail;
By billows roughly tossed;
Full many did their lots bewail;
Some drank their jolly toast.

34

While I caught glimpse of Betsey's
eye-
to sailors lent a hand-
And prayed at times to God on high,
To guide us safe to land.

35

The boxes now began to skate
From side to side the hull
Breaking folks things, Whom their ill
fate
had sentenced their shins or skull.

36

And they were not a few, in truth,
Who's such collisions had;
For some of heads and ankles both
Complained most mighty bad.

37

All hands to work with right good will,
Commenced to clear the deck;
Of broken spars and shattered sail:
The remnants of our wreck.

38

Some jury masts we then did raise,
And canvass spread to breeze;
And ere the laps of twice three days
Our bark plowed swift the seas.

39

We passed Jamaica on our left-
And Cuba on our right;
Although a better land we'd left,
these were a pleasing sight.

40

For who so well his eyes hath weaned
From earth, or sea, or sky?
To feel no joy when th' lookout,
screamed
"Land ho! Land! Land Ahoy"!!?

41

We crossed the Gulf, though dense the
fogg,
We scarce could see to steer,
yet having compass and the log,
we saw no cause of fear.

42

When Mississippi's mouth we found,
What joy in every heart -
The air with anthems did resound
Great God how good thou art!

Lizzy asked, "Sarah which would you do, marry the man you loved or marry the one you are engaged to?"

Grandma had met and liked the man Lizzy was engaged to marry and while she hated to think of Lizzy breaking the engagement, she could only answer by saying, "The man you love, of course."

Lizzie married Allen...

Document 3 Family Account - *Sarah Pidd* by Laraine Smith

Author: Laraine Smith, great-great-granddaughter of Sarah Pidd
Date: Unknown
Written In: Unknown
Source: <http://www.williamsmith.com/generateArticle.php?article=oh015>

Editor's Introduction:

James Allen had a sister-in-law: Elizabeth Pidd's older sister Sarah. Sarah had a daughter (Lucy Griffiths) who was known as Cousin Lucy to James Allen's daughter Eveline Burgess, who wrote about Lucy and her husband Hyrum Smith visiting her family in St Louis. Hyrum and Lucy had a son Hyrum Smith, Jr. whose daughter Laraine Smith wrote an account of her second great-grandmother's life, including her Atlantic crossing on the Golconda and trek from Keokuk, Iowa to Salt Lake City, Utah on foot. James Allen figures prominently in Laraine's account, excerpts of which are included here.

James referred to Elizabeth as *Betsey* but Laraine refers to her as *Lizzy*. On the question of how James and Elizabeth married, Laraine's account implies that Elizabeth broke off an engagement in order to marry the man she loved.

Selected quotes:

Allen had worn the same old clothes and cap all the way on the ocean and Sarah thought that he had no more to change into.

But only a short time passed when Allen asked her [Sarah] to become his second wife, saying how nice it would be for the sisters to always be together.

Sarah Pidd, My Great-Great Grandmother

By Laraine Smith

My great-great grandmother Sarah Pidd was the mother of Lucy Ann Griffiths who was the mother of Hyrum Ernest Smith Sr. who was the father of Hyrum Ernest Smith Jr. I (Laraine Smith) am the daughter of Hyrum Ernest Smith Jr. ...

*They left England and sailed for America, leaving their mother behind who they never saw again, They were on the ship ten weeks, all of which she was seasick and wondered if she would ever live to reach land. There was a young man on the ship by the name of **James Allen**. They became very well acquainted with him and he was very helpful to them. He fell in love with Elizabeth. Just before they landed at New Orleans Sarah said, "Now Lizzy we aren't going to be seen with **Allen**, so we will hurry and get off before he sees us. We will then be rid of him," **Allen** had worn the same old clothes and cap all the way on the ocean and Sarah thought that he had no more to change into. She thought he looked very dirty. So as soon as the ship docked the girls were all ready to get off and hurried away. They walked around New Orleans and who should they meet, but **Mr. Allen**. He had saved his new clothes and kept them clean. They laughed and walked on together, but when they left New Orleans and journeyed on to Missouri **Mr. Allen** didn't go and they didn't see him again for a long time....*

When they got to Missouri they camped and stayed there for some time. Sarah even did some sewing for some people who lived there. The people she met there tried to persuade the girls to stay there and not go to Utah. However their minds were made up and they said, "We started for Utah and Utah we'll see if we live long enough."...

In the fall of 1853 the wagon train pulled into the Old Tithing Yard in Salt Lake City. The immigrants quickly unloaded and left to do as they pleased. Some had people who met them. But Sarah and Elizabeth knew no one and finally were left alone sitting on their trunks. They didn't know what they were going to do or where to go. ...Sarah moved from place to place sewing and making clothes for different families. Elizabeth did housework for a living....

*Great-great-grandmother was sewing at a home west of the Jordan River. She was looking out the window one day and who should she see, but her sister driving in the yard with **Mr. Allen**. Lizzy came running to the house and said, "Sarah I must talk to you." The girls went into the room alone and Lizzy asked, "Sarah which would you do, marry the man you loved or marry the one you are engaged to?" Grandma had met and liked the man Lizzy was engaged to marry and while she hated to think of Lizzy breaking the engagement, she could only answer by saying, "The man you love, of course." Lizzie married **Allen** and they asked Sarah to come and live with them. They said that she could call it her home and always come there when she wasn't working. Sarah thought this would be wonderful, So she moved in with them. But only a short time passed when **Allen** asked her to become his second wife, saying how nice it would be for the sisters to always be together. This, she said, almost broke her heart and she knew how terrible Elizabeth felt. She moved out the next day....*

But this time I have to blame a woman, and that the noblest woman who ever walked to God earth, my mother, for she taught me to read my Bible and I believe what I read there."

Document 4 Family Account - *Allen Saga* by Eveline Burgess

Author: Eveline Alice Burgess
Date: Christmas 1991
Written In: independence, Missouri
Type: Typewritten attachment in a 1991 Christmas Letter
Source: Evans Family Files

Editor's Introduction:

This account of the "Allen Saga" was written by a great-granddaughter of James X Allen: Eveline Alice Burgess, daughter of Samuel Allen Burgess.

The second half of the account is corroborated by records written by her father Samuel Allen Burgess, who in 1903 spent three solid days with James X Allen on a visit her made to Ogden.

I have been unable, however, to find any corroboration for the first half of the account in which Eveline describes the courtship and marriage of her grandparents Elizabeth Pidd and James Allen. The Laraine Smith account and the Eveline Burgess accounts are hard to reconcile with one another.

A potential tie-breaker account is found in the *Autobiography of Eveline Burgess*, the daughter of James and Elizabeth. She is one generation away from the principals. She wrote: "*James Allen was on the same ship and on the long journey over became acquainted; both were good singers and both were very enthusiastic singing the church hymns and conversing on Gospel themes and the wonderful message of salvation. After reaching Utah ... the pernicious doctrine of plural marriage was hinted. A much-married Bishop soon began to pester the pure- minded girl – so it was not a hard task for James Allen to persuade her to marry him and rid herself of the obnoxious intentions of the old Bishop.*"

Selected Quotes:

As soon as children are old enough, I will divorce him

Eveline Allen learned to play chess because this was one of her duties

It seems obvious that the family tree sarcasm came from Grandfather Allen.

PART OF THE ALLEN SAGA REMEMBERED

by Eveline Alice Burgess

James X Allen (born October 26, 1830, Sheffield, England) and Elizabeth Pidd (born April 28, 1832, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, England) were married January 11, 1853, in Utah. They had come over on the same boat and crossed the plains in the same emigrant train. James Allen tried to make love to her all the way across the country although she had her fiancé with her and gave him no encouragement. He left a long poem written in 1853 about his attraction to her and her beauty. Once in Utah, her fiancé went out to build them a cabin and was never seen or heard from again. Very shortly, various Church officials began to try to get her to become a polygamous wife. Grandfather Allen was one of her suitors, and she married him. However, she claimed to be of the landed gentry and steadfastly stated that “as soon as children are old enough, I will divorce him”. In another place, she wrote that she had two chances to choose a husband, and took the wrong one both times. He was an autocratic head of the family, and not easy to get along with. Apparently, she looked down on him, believing she had married “beneath her”. It could not have been a very happy family, since James Allen loved her and the children, and his feelings were not reciprocated by his wife. Eveline Allen (Grandmother Burgess) learned to play chess because this was one of her duties, to play chess with her father every day when she came home from school. Four children grew to maturity: Bertha Ann (b. May 28, 1855 at 5 A.M. at Sugar Creek Utah): this was “Dr. Greer”, Eveline (b. September 19, 1856 near Ogden City, Utah), Sybilia (b. June 25, 1858 9 A.M. Utah near Ogden.) After they escaped from Utah the Allens came to St. Joseph, Missouri, where James Allen became Dr. Allen, taking the course of study in medicine in a college at St. Joseph. Franklin X was born August 2, 1866 (after the war and move to St. Louis). Dr. Allen was a surgeon in the Union Army during the war.

The Allens were affiliated with the RLDS church St. Louis, and Dr. Allen was an elder in the congregation as long as they remained there. Thus Eveline Allen was playing the organ at choir rehearsal and Samuel R Burgess singing in the choir when they started to “date”. Also Sam R Burgess took Latin lessons from Dr. Allen and met Eveline ...

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It seems obvious that the family tree sarcasm came from Grandfather Allen and not from the Burgesses, as witnessed the story told by him of his reason for leaving Utah: It seems he was in trouble because he had said from the stand "All is not well in Zion". The next time the bishop was in town, he was called on to speak, and began by announcing, "When Solomon's temple went up, there was not a sound of an anvil or hammer". When ours went up, it was the noisiest place in town." The bishop objected. Allen asked to speak, was urged to "be brief". He came forward with his Bible in his hand and began: "I have always thought badly of any man who would blame his faults on a woman. I have even thought badly about our Father Adam, because he blamed his fall on Eve. But this time I have to blame a woman, and that the noblest woman who ever walked to God earth, my mother, for she taught me to read my Bible and I believe what I read there." And he opened the Bible and read the passage about the Temple of Solomon¹⁸. He went on, "But now that the living oracles have spoken, I stand corrected." Church leaders were considered living oracles and their pronouncements were superior to any scripture). Next thing, Brigham called him in and told him they had decided to give him a dispensation to take another wife. He asked for time "since a man in your position may have this opportunity at any time, and I don't know when I will get another chance". Brigham agreed. "Take all the time you want". He went home, told his wife and took the family in a wagon, going only a few miles at a time, stopping in each settlement to let them trot out any eligible women, if there were any. In this way, they inched their way out of Utah. One morning, he said to his wife "Betsey, we're in Idaho" and to the horse "Giddap". They didn't stop till they got to Missouri. He stated that there were not enough women to go "go around" in a frontier settlement like Utah and since Brigham had 21 wives, no one could go into polygamy without a special dispensation. Hence this was a special "sop" Brigham held out to him to try to persuade him to keep quiet and remain. When his wife divorced him in 1876, Dr. Allen could no longer practice medicine in St. Louis, could find no other source of income, so he returned to Utah, married again and had a second family. He practiced medicine in Utah, and died a respected professional man. He does not seem to have affiliated with the Utah church.

¹⁸ 1 Kings 6:7

Lot number One (1) in block number Twenty (20) in Douglas second addition to the City of St. Joseph.

Document 5 Aug 31, 1859 Deed - \$125 Tract in St Joseph, MO

Author: County Recorder of Buchanan County
Date: August 31, 1859
Written In: St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri
Type: Legal Document with Handwritten Entries in Blank Fields
Photo Nos.: 2382-2383
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

This document establishes a date by which James and Elizabeth Allen had arrived in St Joseph, Missouri from Utah. The 1860 US Census lists them in St Joseph; this deed establishes their arrival at least a year earlier in the summer of 1859. Since Sybilia Allen was born in Utah in June of 1858, the Allen family must have made the "escape" that Eveline (and Samuel A) Burgess describe between about July of 1858 and July of 1859.

It is worth noting that the tract of land was sold by a man and wife and that the wife had to swear that she signed the legal document of her own free will, i.e. she was not signing because her husband coerced her somehow. Yet James chose not to include Elizabeth's name on the deed.

This Deed, made and entered into this *Thirty-first* day of *August* in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty *nine* by and between *Charles F Schivel and Lucinda Schivel* the County of *Buchanan* and State of *Missouri* of the first part and *James Allen* of the County of *Buchanan* and State of *Missouri* of the second part,

Witnesseth: That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of *One Hundred and Twenty five Dollars*, to them in hand paid by the said part of the second part receipt where of is hereby confessed and acknowledged, have given, granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever, a certain tract, piece, or parcel of land lying and being in the County of *Buchanan* and State of *Missouri* to wit:

Lot number One (1) in block number Twenty (20) in Douglas second addition to the City of St. Joseph

To have and to hold the said tract, piece, parcel of land with all the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in any way appertaining unto him the said party of the second part an to his heirs, and assigns forever: and the said party of the first part with their heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant and agree that they will **Warrant and Forever Defend**, the title to the said tract, piece, or parcel of land and every part thereof, and to him the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against the lawful claim or claims of all persons whomsoever.

Be it remembered, that on this *Thirty-first* day of *August* in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and fifty-*nine* before me, undersigned, a notary public within and for the said county aforesaid, personally appeared *Lucinda Schivel and Charles Schivel* who are personally known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within and foregoing deed as parties thereto, and they acknowledge the same to be their act and deed for uses and purposes therein mentioned.

And she the said that *Lucinda Schivel* being by me first made acquainted with the contents of said Deed, and examined separate and apart from her husband acknowledged on such examination, that she executed the same freely and without compulsion, or undo influence of her said husband.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and I fixed my notarial seal the day and year last above written. *John A Dolinan / Notary Public*

I *Mr. Ridenbaugh* Clerk of the Circuit Court, and ex officio Recorder, within and for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify, that the foregoing deed, together with a certificate of acknowledgment thereon, was received by name for the record on the *6th* day of *September* A.D. *1859*, and at the same are truly recorded my Book *O*. for recording conveyances at page *181*

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand an affixed my official Seal at office in *St. Joseph* this *6th* day of *September* A.D. *1859*

William Ridenbaugh Recorder

It was known in the hospital for 24 hours that the said Allen was going to leave with the command. Said Alexander was not on friendly terms with said Allen.

Document 6 October 3, 1862 Affidavit – Frederick A Moore

Author: Frederick A Moore
Date: October 3, 1862
Written In: Jackson County, Missouri
Type: Handwritten Notarized Statement
Photo No.: 2381
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

Military records (ref: Saints Seekers Settlers Spirits) show that James X Allen was a Sergeant in the 5th Regiment Company K of the Missouri State Militia in 1862 but that he was dishonorably discharged on September 22 for insubordination. His discharge occurred a month after the events described in this deposition, which was notarized within two weeks of the discharge. There is probably a connection between the two events, but I cannot figure out what it may have been.

It seems odd that this document even survives. It must have held some importance to James Allen that he would have kept it.

Also of interest is that the March 1862 Civil War documents (ref: SSSS) are the first records in which James uses the name James X Allen. The 1859 St Joseph Deed does not use "X" even though it is a legal document and this 1862 deposition does not use "X" either. His daughter's autobiography explained that he added the "X" because of confusion in mail delivery with other men named James Allen. It would seem that it was about 1861 when he was already 30 years old that he adopted the "X".

State of Missouri
County of Jackson

This affiant Frederick A Moore personally appeared before me G R Hootensfuller, a Notary Public within and for the County aforesaid and says upon his oath that he is a member of Company D 5th Regiment Cavalry and M.S.M. [Missouri State Militia]. He the said Moore says that he was Ward Master in hospital at Lexington, Missouri eight days. He went there on the 23rd day of August 1862. George Alexander was there in said hospital wounded, he having his thigh broken. James Allen was hospital steward at the time I was there. I do not know of the said ~~Allen Moore~~ Alexander having any money whilst he was in the hospital. He was wounded in the Lone (?) Jack fight. I do not know of Allen's having anything belonging to the sick or wounded whilst I was in said hospital. Alexander had two knapsack[s] full of clothing. I asked him if I should take care of his clothing. He said he would take care of it himself. It was known in the hospital for 24 hours that the said Allen was going to leave with the command. Said ~~Moore~~ Alexander was not on friendly terms with said Allen.

Frederick A. Moore

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of October A.D. 1862

Geo R Hootensfuller
Notary Public

*One day an angel passing bye
Perchanced to hear a baby cry,
did sympathizingly draw near
And soon dried up each pearly tear
of Ptolemy Allen*

Document 7 After 1862 - God Lent Him to us for a Season

Author: James Allen
Date: Unknown, but between 1862 and 1865
Written In: Unknown
Type: Handwritten Notebook
Photo No.: 2191
Source: Archives P104 F59

Editor's Introduction:

James wife Betsey had conceived four girls. Three of the pregnancies went full term and provided James with three healthy daughters: Bertha Ann (1855), Eveline (1856), and Sybilia (1858) – but no sons. James very much wanted a son, in part because he was an only child and he did not want the name Allen to die out with him. He must have been thrilled, then, when his fourth child – born in St Joseph, Mo in August 1861, was a boy to whom they gave the name William Ptolemy.

The name Ptolemy seems at first an odd choice, but less so when one learns that James had a life long interest in geology, astronomy, and astrology and so he may have named him after the Greek polymath Claudius Ptolemy who lived in 367 B.C. Tragically, his son did not live to see his first birthday. He died on August 15, 1862. James gave expression to his grief in this lament.

Selected quotes:

*God heard our prayer in accent mild,
"Our father give us a man-child"?
down from the realms of light there came
A cherubim whom we did name
our Ptolemy Allen*

*His little hands and arms so round,
And Angel voice – how sweet the sound!
his movements graceful ever, one
Who would not love just such a son
As Ptolemy Allen*

God Lent him* to us for a Season

By James X Allen

God heard our prayer in accent mild,
“Our father give us a man-child”?
down from the realms of light there came
A cherubim whom we did name
our Ptolemy Allen

How blest were we with such a prize!
O such a lovely pair of eyes!
with every feature so compleat!
Who ever saw a child so sweet
As Ptolemy Allen

His little hands and arms so round,
And Angel voice – how sweet the sound!
his movements graceful ever, one
Who would not love just such a son
As Ptolemy Allen

More than a year he blest our hearth
O how we loved his childish mirth!
his laugh, his cry, his sportive glee,
Made happy all, who on the knee
held Ptolemy Allen

One day an angel passing bye
Perchanced to hear a baby cry,
did sympathizingly draw near
And soon dried up each pearly tear
of Ptolemy Allen

But to perform this work of love,
He bore aloft our heavenly dove!
to God’s Celestial Court on high
And there, no more will sicken and die
Our Ptolemy Allen.

Betsy forgive me for again reminding you of your and my sorrow. I loved him so much I cannot forget him. J. X. Allen

** Ptolemy William Allen was born 18 October 1861 in St. Joseph, Missouri.
He died on August 5, 1862. He was James X Anderson’s fourth child and first son.*

"I believe it will be necessary for me to buy a suit of clothes as soon as paymaster makes us another visit. And yet I hate to do it for what I should have to pay for a good suit would go quite away in paying for a course of Lectures after I am out of the service so that I am in a kind of conundrum."

Document 8 April 4, 1863 Letter – J. X. Allen to Betsey Allen

Author: James Allen
Dates: April 1863
Written In: Near Helena, Arkansas
Type: Handwritten Letter
Recipient: Betsey Allen
Photo Nos.: 2208-2211
Source: Archives P104 F61

Editor's Introduction:

James and Betsey were living in St Joseph, Missouri when the Civil War began in 1861. Although officially part of the Union, Missouri was a deeply divided state and Missouri's non-native population drew far more from southern states than northern states. As with the majority of European immigrants, James's loyalties were to the country that had become his adopted home, and so he enlisted in the Union army. The 35th Hospital Corps was headquartered in St Louis at Camp Benton, but traveled by boat down the Mississippi River and saw action at Vicksburg and other campaigns in the Mississippi Valley. This letter, written midway through the four-year conflict, is the only one to survive.

Among the chords he strikes in this letter that one sees often are his interest in learning and his concern for his mother.

Selected quotes:

We have done no fighting on our part for over a week - but the enemy every day throw shelves at our men as they are at work building breastworks. But I am happy to say have done us no harm as yet.

I do not care much where we go do we but some good and help bring this war to a close. Not that I as an individual am much concerned in it, but I am fearful that the nation is so very much depraved that it will take a faithful ministry a long, long time to restore it to its former condition.

Remember me kindly to Mrs. Newman and I am glad to learn from her message that she is as jolly and good-natured as ever. Tell her that we will have a spree when Newman and I come home, which may come this summer.

Yazoo Expedition: Before Greenwood - April 4th 1863

Dear Wife,

I have been for a week thinking that I would write to you tomorrow and tomorrow - all the time thinking that we would have a great battle of which I could give you some account - but as no such circumstance has taken place I deem it right to write if it be but to say I been well and I hope you all are in like condition.

We have done no fighting on our part for over a week - but the enemy every day throw shelves at our men as they are at work building breastworks. But I am happy to say have done us no harm as yet.

A very melancholy circumstance occurred during a high wind one night last week to the 42nd Indiana regiment. Being camped in the timber, a very large tree was blown down and across a tent which contained six men. Four of them were killed on the instant and I believe that the other two have since died.

We have had five men died this week of Typhoid fever in our regiment. I have had a slight touch of ague on three days this week, but I took six doses of Sulfate of Quinine and have now for two days been all right. I feel first rate: in fact I am very careful how I live although we have plenty of preserves - pickles - spirits and [such] in the Hospital.

I live always the same: light bread, ham on a little fresh beef, and drink weak tea which is almost all that I even eat or drink. Some men, when they can get it for nothing, that is from a search(?) will eat and drink like so many children. And I think that I am the most temperate man in the regimen, and I think the most healthy.

I told you in my last that I was appointed Hospital steward and that I had got a goodly number of book. And now I must [Page 2] tell you that we have got a little dutch Doctor for a Druggist which gives me a plenty of time to read and study. And you may be sure that I do not forget to improve the time. And from what I have now told you, you may guess whether I am happy or not.

As I have been promoted in order to maintain my rank, I believe it will be necessary for me to buy a suit of clothes as soon as paymaster makes us another visit. And yet I hate to do it for what I should have to pay for a good suit would go quite away in paying for a course of Lectures after I am out of the service so that I am in a kind of conundrum. My wage is \$30 a month and \$3.50 for clothing that if I buy my own I shall get \$33.50 a month - that is if I do get it!!!

I have not seen Mr. Newman for a day or so but I am pretty sure that he is alright for he looked fine yesterday.

April 8, 1863: Moonlake, Mississippi

While I was writing the other day an order came for our Brigade (Gen. Fisk's) to move up into the Mississippi River. And, as a matter of course, we set about it at once, and are now within a half day's travel of Helena, Arkansas. I do not know where we are going, for you know that I don't often ask questions, and indeed I do not care much where we go do we but some good and help bring this war to a close. Not that I as an individual am much concerned in it, but I am fearful that the nation is so very much depraved that it will take a faithful ministry a long, long time to restore it to its former condition; and that was in my estimation nothing to boast of.

I should not post this letter until I have been a day or so in Helena so that if there is any further news that I can put you in possession of, I will do it. For I know that you like to [Page 3] to know all about everything and a little more too if it were possible.

And by the bye I must tell you that our boat is so very badly mashed up that we cannot stopp (?) on it often (?) today. And it is believed that every boat on this expedition will recover from six to ten thousand dollars damages from the government in consequence damages received in going down this narrow, zigzag, miserable current.

When we left Helena we left about one hundred men at Helena (our feeblest) and P. Dutton was left with the balance. He has been complaining for two or three months and much wants to get his discharge. I am sorry to say that there is a misunderstanding between Peter and myself and so we do not associate much together.

I was sorry to hear of my mother's sickness and hope that she will soon be all right.

And as for you, I think that you are very foolish in working and walking as much as you speak of. And I do hope that for my sake and the children's, that you will avoid

as much as possible all over exertion which have a tendency to bring on those spasms. And while I think of it, I wish you would observe if your fits are not more apt to come after eating a heavy meal's victuals (?) and if such be the case govern yourself accordingly.

Evening Helena, Arkansas: April 8, 1863

I tonight received two letters from you, one directed to myself and one through Mr. Newman. He is well and looks happy.

From what you say you have more religion than I have but I do believe that I am happier than you are. It may be that I have not sufficient of the fear of God before my eyes - but I do believe that I have less of [Page 4] the fear of death about me than you have; and yet I may be wrong now that I come to think that I have never known you to express any fear for yourself, but a great deal for me. And as far as that goes, although I have no fear for myself, ever since the birth of our boy, I have be[en] very jealous(?) for you; not that I think that you are in very, very great danger but, it is not flattery when I say that home would be very lonesome without you, so much so that I would rather be myself the first to make my exit.

I am glad to hear that Mother is well. Give my love to her. Give my love to Father Bracewell, and tell mother that I shall come and sing for her again, and be sure that if she looks very pious I shall Laugh.

Remember me kindly to Mrs. Newman and I am glad to learn from her message that she is as jolly and good-natured as ever. Tell her that we will have a spree when Newman and I come home, which may come this summer.

I shall not post this until we get some orders as we don't know yet what we are going to do.

[Kiss My Children Poem written at bottom of Page 4]

*Kiss my children everyone,
Bertha, Syb, and Evaline;
Take them each upon your knee;
Kiss them while they laugh with glee*

Document 9 April 4, 1863 Poem - *Kiss My Children*

Author: James Allen
Dates: April 1863
Written In: Near Helena, Arkansas
Type: Handwritten Letter
Recipient: Betsey Allen
Photo No.: 2212
Source: Archives P104 F61

Editor's Introduction:

On the last page of his 4 April 1863 letter to his wife Betsey from Helena, Arkansas, where his unit was stationed at the time, James squeezes in a happy little poem to delight his wife and his children. From the sentiments expressed in it is it not obvious that James, like other soldier-fathers separated from their wives and young children, longed to be home?

Worth a mention is James's wish for a son in a stanza devoted to his third daughter Sybil: *I would that she had been a boy, My heart would have known more of joy.*

.

Kiss My Children*

By James X Allen

Kiss my children everyone,
Bertha, Syb, and Evaline;
Take them each upon your knee;
Kiss them while they laugh with glee;

Tell them how their father would
Kiss them also, if he could.
Tell them how I every day
For my little children pray;

Sing for them some ditty sweet,
Pleasant stories oft repeat.
Myrth is good but in their din
Teach them this, "do not sin!"

I often of my Bertha think
How she bounces in a wink
How she runs with all her might
To catch some insect in its flight
How she cried and looked so droll
When she lost her little doll.

Evaline I don't forget,
Who's large eyes so often wet
Shine with luster so divine;
That I'm proud of daughter mine.

Sybilia is our fairest child
Though not by far the most mild
I would that she had been a boy
My heart would have known more of joy
Yet I love her, though a girl
And know she is a precious Pearl.

** Included at the end of a letter written on 4 April 1863 from James X Allen to his wife.
He was serving in the Union Army on the Yazoo Expedition in Mississippi.*

The social gathering does more, it familiarizes the brothers and sisters living at a distance from the meeting house, who do not often see each other, and takes away the stiffness resulting from a limited acquaintance; it amalgamates and tends to make us one.

Document 10 Sept 24, 1868 Letter – J. X. Allen to J Smith III

Author: James X Allen
Date: September 24, 1868
Written In: St Louis, Missouri
Type: Saints Herald
Recipient: Joseph Smith, III.
Photo No.: 2329
Source: Church of Christ Library, Stacks, Independence, MO

Editor's Introduction:

After the Civil War ended, James moved his family from St Joseph, Missouri to St. Louis, Missouri where in 1866 he finally got the son he longed for when Franklin Henry Allen was born in August. James enrolled in St Louis Medical College and in 1867 he graduated and began a medical practice. He and Betsey joined the St Louis Branch of the Reorganized Church and became very active members of same. James spoke often from the pulpit and involved his daughters in the Sunday School and young adult choir. The RLDS church was headquartered in Illinois and its head, Joseph Smith, III. was the son of the founder of the LDS church, Joseph Smith, Jr. James wrote this letter in 1868 and it was published in the church newspaper called the *Saints Herald*.

Selected quotes:

A few sisters in this branch Church decided to organize themselves into a benevolent and Missionary Society, under the promising name "Sisters of Dorcas."

Their bylaws were drawn up by Bro. Geo. Bellamy and the obligations of the sisterhood by your humble servant, who had the pleasure, on the 22nd of initiating the first seven sisters into this holy sisterhood.

THE SAINTS HERALD, Vol. 14, Page 123

September 24, 1868 Correspondence from Brother J. X. Allen

Brother Joseph: Not having any news of much importance to communicate, I have refrained from troubling yourself or office with letters. I do not write because of having anything wonderful to relate, or knotty question to be explained: But simply to keep you posted in the working of this branch of the church.

Some six weeks since the Branch Council resolved to invite Bro. C. Derry to come and visit our September conference; the invitation was sent and in due time the Saints were made glad by the manly voice and sound teaching of that servant of God. We had a lively conference, and the Sabbath school festival. Monday evening, the second day of conference, could not be beat. The Hall was crowded. Peace and harmony prevailed; not a word, look, breath of discord transpiring to mar the tranquility of the scene.

I think these social gatherings had quite a happy effect upon the children; they warm up and create an interest in the hearts of the little folks towards the latter day work; making them more sensibly realize their identification with it. The little children being happy in, and proud of their Sabbath School, tell the pleasing story to other children, thereby becoming messengers of glad tidings to minds as yet untraditionated (sic) in Babylonish worship. Not a child but has some influence for good with some other child. I pray God to bless our humbling endeavors interest and instruct the lambs of this flock.

The social gathering does more, it familiarizes the brothers and sisters living at a distance from the meeting house, who do not often see each other, and takes away the stiffness resulting from a limited acquaintance; it amalgamates and tends to make us *one*. Influenced by these sentiments, a few sisters in this branch Church decided to organize themselves into a benevolent and Missionary Society, under the promising name "Sisters of Dorcas." Their bylaws were drawn up by Bro. Geo. Bellamy and the obligations of the sisterhood by your humble servant, who had the pleasure,

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on the 22nd of initiating the first seven sisters into this holy sisterhood. The ceremony was brief but very impressive; we first dedicated the circle to Almighty God, and implored His paternal blessing upon, and cognizance of it. Then the candidates, kneeling around the little altar, on which was a copy of the New Translation of the Bible, opened at Acts ix 36; each sister with her right hand placed upon the Bible, and her left hand on her heart, repeated the obligation; which I have not a copy, but will give you the main points:

1. They would do all that lay in their power, during their natural lives, to build up and advance the interests of the kingdom of God.
2. They would, as far as practicable, devote their lives to the proper training of the young, laboring in and for the Sabbath School and Church of Christ.
3. They would visit and otherwise comfort the poor, sick and distressed sisters, so far as circumstances would permit.
4. They would discountenance all TATTILING, and themselves would never speak evil of any L. D Saint, either before his or her face, or behind his or her back, more especially a *Sister of Dorcas*.

They have no male members, nor can a brother visit them except by unanimous request of the circle. You will perceive that our object is to have all hands at work, priesthood, sisters, and children.

Dear brother, in submitting our transactions for your criticism, we feel assured that God, in whose vineyard we are all in laboring, will give you wisdom to approve the right and reprove the wrong; and may rest assured that any correction or reproof will be received the same kind spirit in which it is given.

May the God of Abraham and Joseph bless you and us, in our humble efforts for the truth, is the prayer of your fellow workman.

St. Louis, Missouri. September 24, 1868.

After the baptizing was over, some went on to the Dry Hill Sunday school, with which they were much pleased, as were also the scholars, to see the musical director of Zion's Hope Sunday school, and hear from him some of those joyful strains which please St. Louis Saints.

Document 11 Sept 21, 1870 Letter – J. X. Allen to J. Smith III

Author: James X Allen
Date: September 21, 1870
Written In: St Louis, Missouri
Type: Saints Herald
Recipient: Joseph Smith, III.
Photo Nos.: 2330-2331
Source: Church of Christ Library, Stacks, Independence, MO

Editor's Introduction:

Two year after he wrote his first letter, James wrote another letter to Joseph Smith, III that was also published in the church newspaper *Saints Herald*. It begins by explaining the needs of "pruning the vineyard" of members, some of whom were "disfellowshipped ... because their too close resemblance to the barren fig tree."

Family Facts: The letter ends with a description of a baptism of eight new members at a place called Dry Hill. There was another RLDS church that formed in the early 1860's by mostly British and Welsh coal miners. Two families that joined the Dry Hill branch were Joseph Knowles and Daniel Evans. Their children Sarah Knowles and Gomer Dan Evans would later marry and have a son Gomer Louis Evans who would marry James Allen's granddaughter Sybilia Burgess.

Dry Hill Then and Now: The Dry Hill district of Saint Louis lay south of Forest Park in an area that later became known as Cheltenham. Cheltenham was a region of England from which some of the coal miners had immigrated. In this same area today is a neighborhood simply called "The Hill" that has many popular Italian reference. The name "The Hill" harks back to the name "Dry Hill" by which it had once been known.

THE SAINTS HERALD, VOL 17 PAGE 629

St. Louis Missouri, Sept 21st, 1870.

Bro. Joseph:

As no vineyard can long flourish without pruning, the vineyard of the Lord being no exception, the officers of the St. Louis branch have lately been vigorously employed with the pruning of the vineyard which they are made overseers. A number have been disfellowshipped (sic), some because they were dead, - had apostatized; others because their too close resemblance to the barren fig tree. The result is a more healthful condition of things in general.

Last Sunday morning the president and several others accompanied eight candidates to the baptizing place, near Dry Hill. A meeting was held. We know that the prayers ascended on high, and "Salem's bright king," etc., as there sung in earnest, could not fail to receive ears of him whose example we followed.

The infidel cannot understand how the followers of Christ could bear martyrdom so heroically. It was because they had already passed from death into life. "The sting of death is sin;" and, like the harmless serpent, death had lost its sting." Planted together in the likeness of his death." "Dead to sin." How solemn the thought to voluntarily die to the world while still living in it. Blessed are they that do put off the "old man," with his deeds, and live again in to the newness of life. "The tree shall be known by its fruits," and when "God giveth the increase," the fruit is unmistakable and the reward is sure.

After the baptizing was over, some went on to the Dry Hill Sunday school, with which they were much pleased, as were also the scholars, to see the musical director of Zion's Hope Sunday school, and hear from him some of those joyful strains which please St. Louis Saints.

J. X. ALLEN

*Nov 19, 1870: Spent a quiet day at the store. Called at **Doctor Allen's** in the evening and read over my week's lessons in Latin with him. ...*

Document 12 1868 – 1876 Burgess Journal by Samuel Burgess

Author: Samuel R Burgess
Date: 1868 to 1876
Written In: St Louis, Missouri
Source: Evans Family Files, Burgess Journal 1868-1918

Editor's Introduction:

Beginning in 1868, James X Allen's future son-in-law Samuel Rostron Burgess kept a journal. Samuel's own father Peter Burgess had died five years earlier and James Allen became more than just a mentor to Samuel – he became a surrogate father and, when James married his daughter Eveline in 1876, he became his father-in-law.

This document transcribes excerpts from selected entries in which James Allen is mentioned. The entries span most of the decade from 1866 until 1876 during which James Allen lived at 1019 Morgan Street in St Louis, was active as an Elder in the RLDS church, and had a medical practice until he and Eveline separated in 1876 and he moved back to Ogden, Utah in 1877.

The two men maintained tremendous respect for each other through good times and bad. The journal records that Samuel shared dinner with his father-in-law James Allen on Christmas Day 1876 in St. Louis, which would have been after James and Eveline had separated and during a time that James was experiencing humiliation and ridicule as the man who was "let out.". In 1906 James wrote to Sammy of his daughter, "*She has a noble man for her mate.*" When James Allen died in 1911, Samuel's son wrote to James's widow, Julia Allen, that when his father learned of his passing, his response was, "*There passes the greatest mind in Utah!*"

Selected quotes:

*Jan 28, 1871: ... Called at **Doctor Allen's** ...He complimented me on the appearance of "The Old Year and the New" in the [Zion's] Hope of the 15th*

*Apr 11, 1873: Trade very quiet. In the evening I went down to **Dr. Allen's**. ... Passed the time pleasantly. Miss Eveline played several pieces of music on the organ.*

Excerpts from *The Burgess Journal*

1868

Oct 4: Attended Sabbath School at the Hall where I serve each Sabbath morn as the teacher of a class of young ladies...and in the evening listened to a discourse by **Bro. Allen**¹⁹ upon the question "*Why does not the work prosper faster than it does?*"

1869

Apr 25: ... the evening preaching... was only tolerably enjoyed, ... but the evening service by **Dr. Allen** I was much pleased with. The day was gloomy; no bright sun shed its warming rays to enliven us. This evening, I retire with hope praying the future finds me ever ready and humble to battle against my weaknesses and fears.

1870

Aug 7: Attended Sabbath School in the morning, and the meetings of the Church in the afternoon and evening. ... **Doctor Allen** occupied the stand in the evening. ...

Nov 19: Spent a quiet day at the store. Called at **Doctor Allen's** in the evening and read over my week's lessons in Latin with him. ...

Dec 3: Mr. Cantwell returned from his short Western trip. Called at **Doctor Allen's** after leaving the store, and compared Latin exercises.

1871

Jan 28: ... Called at **Doctor Allen's** ...He complimented me on the appearance of "*The Old Year and the New*" in the [Zion's] Hope of the 15th.

Mar 26: Attended S.S. in the morning. ... Heard...**Dr. Allen** preach in the evening....

1872

July 22: Attended in the evening, the Sacred Concert and Sociable of Zion's Hope S.S. at the Le Baume St – hall. ... **Dr. Allen** and Mr. Grant sang "*The Larboard Watch*" ...

July 24: ... I went down to **Mr. Allen's** ...Found Eveline and Sybilia at home.

July 30: ... In the evening I went down to **Mr. Allen's**... Eveline read "*All is Fair in Love or War*" ... I engaged to escort the Misses Allen home from rehearsals...

Aug 5: ... I walked down to **Dr. Allen's**. Sang "*Lottie Lee*", "*Over There*" and "*Freedmen's Melody*".

Aug 18: ... **Doctor Allen** took charge of my class... In the evening **Dr. Allen** preached a good sermon. ...

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¹⁹ S R Burgess used "Bro." until he had his name removed from the church rolls in May 1870.

Aug 20: ... Eveline wanted Marantha to come with us to Morgan St., not wishing to walk that distance alone with me. Found Mr. Alex Greer, of Moberly, at **Dr. Allen's** ...

Oct 3: ... Mother called in the afternoon and told me that **Dr. Allen** had informed me a situation in a railway office in East St. Louis, the salary of which would be \$75.00 per month. I decided, however, that I had better remain with Cantwell & Shorb...

Dec 22: ...Attended evening preaching ... **Dr. Allen** occupied the pulpit.

1873

Jan 3: ... In the evening I attended the Young Folks' Social at **Dr. Allen's**. Spent the evening pleasantly.

Jan 12: Attended Sunday school ... **Dr. Allen** came up with me to dinner...

Feb 2: ... Spent the time in writing and in reading "*Fabiola*", a work on primitive Christianity, written by Cardinal Wiseman. **Dr. Allen** loaned the book to me.

Apr 4: We were quite busy at the store. In the evening I went down to **Dr. Allen's** and spent the time quite pleasantly.

Apr 11: Trade very quiet. In the evening I went down to **Dr. Allen's**. ... Passed the time pleasantly. Miss Eveline played several pieces of music on the organ.

Apr 18: Worked on the samples. In the evening Alice and I went down to **Dr. Allen's**.

July 7: ... I called at **Dr. Allen's** house, where I found Mr. Greer. Had supper there.

July 15: Trade dull. Went to supper at **Dr. Allen's**.

July 20: Read the eighth chapter of Act with my "*Bouquet*" class of young ladies at Zion's Hope Sunday School. ... **Dr. Allen** came up to supper with me ...

July 30: In the afternoon called a short time at Mr. Thorp's and at **Dr. Allen's**. Eveline and Sybil were washing clothes. I felt sorry to leave home again.

Sep 2: Had a chill of an hour's duration and a burning fever. **Dr. Allen** came up and prescribed for me.

Sep 14: Attended Zion's Hope S.S. ... Attended evening preaching at the hall. **Dr. Allen** spoke. Joseph Swift and I are still out.

Oct 14: Mr. Boland told Jimmy and me to get samples ready for the country. In the evening mother and I went over to **Dr. Allen's** house.

Dec 24: Was at Shorb and Boland's all day and at M. & Co.'s in the evening up until midnight. ... Closed at about mid-night and came up to our house 2405 Ninth from where a party of serenaders set out. ...We sang at Yeoman's, Roberts's, Thorp's, Molyneaux's, Gibson's, Fifes's, Greenwood's, Kyte's, McFarland's, Cook's, Wm. Anderson, Jas. Anderson, and **Dr. Allen's**. Got home about 6 A.M. Christmas ...

1874

Jan 4: Attended Sunday School ... Mr. Hansen and Eveline Allen came to dinner with us. ... Went to **Dr. Allen's** to supper. ...

Jan 20: ... In the evening I went over to **Dr. Allen's**. Eveline and I investigated the Sunday School finances.

Mar 5: Business brisk at S & B's. Spent the evening at **Dr. Allen's**.

Apr 7: In the evening I went up to Wm Anderson's to attend a meeting of the St. Louis Mercantile Association. R. D. Cottam was appointed President, Wm Anderson – Vice President, Mark H. Forscutt – Secretary, and Wm. J. Kyte – Treasurer. **Dr. Allen** and I were appointed standing auditors.

May 10: ... Mrs. Allen called to see me about noon and invited me to go with her to Dry Hill in the afternoon. I accepted the invitation and went accordingly. Returned in the evening to the city and heard **Dr. Allen** preach at the Le Baume St. hall.

May 27: Was sick with fever. Got a prescription from **Dr. Allen** and went home ...

TWO YEAR GAP - 7/74 TO 7/4/76 (WEDDING OF S R BURGESS & EVELINE)

1876

July 7: Engaged the livery man to take us out to Pleasanton in a buggy. Reached Pleasanton about 11 o'clock A.M. and went immediately to **Dr. Allen's** house.

July 10: I started for St. Louis, leaving Eveline at her mother's for a few weeks. Mr. May took me in **Dr. Allen's** wagon to Lineville, where I arrived just in time to catch the train.

Dec. 25: Eveline and I spent all Christmas day and evening at our home, 1008 Eighteenth St. We had with us to dinner and during most of the day **Dr. Allen**, Mrs. Greer, mother, Martha, Peter, and Mr. Kuhnert.

1883

April 2: Today Frank Allen (who is still stopping at our house) received a letter from his father - Ogden City, Utah, in which was the information that his **Father's mother** (Frank's and Eveline's grandmother) had died on the 12 inst. at Ogden City, Utah.

... I am too miserable here and wish to go farther away, where I know no one and where no one will know me. ... Never expect to see any of you again for God only knows when I shall be sent. And I do not know that it matters much. ... An old man without home or friends is just about as well in one place as another.

Document 13 August 17, 1876 Letter - J. X. Allen to A D Greer

Author: James X Allen
Date: August 17, 1876
Written In: St Louis, Missouri
Recipient: Alexander Dill Greer Jr.
Photo Nos.: 2196-2199
Source: Archives P104 F59

Editor's Introduction:

Shortly before August 1876, when the following letter was written, Betsey and James had separated. She and the younger children Sybilia and Franklin had moved to a farm in Pleasanton, Iowa. The older daughters Bertha and Eveline had married.

Bertha, the oldest, was first to marry in February 1874 to Alexander Dill Greer, Jr. a Canadian-born son of a Wesleyan-Methodist Irish immigrant who had been baptized in 1866 into the RLDS church in Hannibal, Missouri. Bertha and Alex also settled in Pleasanton, Iowa at the same farm as Betsey, Sybilia, and Franklin.

Eveline had married Sam Burgess on July 4 six weeks before the letter was written. Eveline and Sam lived in St Louis where his mother and his three siblings also lived.

In this letter to his son-in-law, James dispenses medical advice, speculates on his own state and fate, and asks about his mother, suggesting that Ann Allen left her son and may have been living with Betsey, Bertha, Alex, Sybilia, and Franklin.

Selected quotes:

Practice makes perfect. Work and in time the Pay will come

I am well in health but very low in pocket and in spirit.

I hope they will send me to some far off place.

It is a rainy day and I am as miserable a rat as you can ever know saw

How is my mother? I never hear from her.

St. Louis August 17 1876

Alex:

Yesterday your's came to hand. Yesterday I baptized four and got thoroughly wet by rain before I got home. Had a full and first rate meeting last night.

I have a lady to baptize this week yet. I am well in health but very low in pocket and in spirit. Wish it were time to go to General Conference and that I had the wherewithal to go to it.

President Hazeldine and all the elders in all the churches wish me to remain here. But I am too miserable here and wish to go farther away, where I know no one and where no one will know me.

I never feel happy out of meeting and never bad in it. I have worked hard here and, I trust, I have done some good.

Were I going to remain, I would open an office and try to earn something, or for I badly need new pants and underwear.

Page 2

But I can do nothing in my unsettled condition. I hope they will send me to some far off place.

Should you remain there, be sure to get in with Dr. Wheeler and go around with him. He could send you to some bad Paying Patients, which would help you a great deal.

The book you speak of with being no use to you; It is for old practitioners (?). "*Woods Practice*", which you have there is the simplest and best that you can have!!! Do not mind how much work you get, even should you get "Ne'r cent": Practice makes perfect. Work and in time the Pay will come.

I use very little medicine, except Dr. Ver Vincle (?). Full directions are on the bottle. Put the amount you wish to give in a tumbler with a little sugar and then put as many teaspoonfuls of water as you have doses.

Nearly every case will do best to commence with a purge of calomel and Podophitius which must be large enough to purge.

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Page 3

Small doses every 2 or 3 hours, are better and safer than large doses, as they can be stopped whenever purging commences. Nothing sour must be taken until after the purging, or else salivations may ensue.

When there is Periodicity in a fever, cough, diarrhea etc. use quinine always giving 3 or 4 doses, 2 hours apart as close to the time of fever as you can.

A good sweat at the time that the chill, fever, or what not will greatly help the medicine. Give nothing but Doctor Tri-Vir-ver (?) when fever is on.

Do not try to use too many medicines. Remember this: I have killed my ringworm with: corrosive sublimate 3 grs. (?) and water ½ oz . Apply twice a day.

Opium is not good in pneumonia. It stops the secretions.

It is a rainy day and I am as miserable a rat as you can ever know saw. Never tell a patient what you are giving except it be calomel, and then tell every time

Page 4

or they may salivate.

How is my mother? I never hear from her. I sent Bro. Moffet \$10 in a registered letter, but have had not a word as to whether he got it or not.

There is a notice here from the M.M.B. society, \$3.45. If the folks cannot pay it would be better to sell a half interest to you or Evaline (sic). Every dollar paid will bring \$2 back: I shall not live forever. But I cannot pay to ride in the streetcars. I must settle somewhere before I can expect to earn anything. If I had an office here I could do something, but not as I am.

Give my regards to all.

Never expect to see any of you again for God only knows when I shall be sent. And I do not know that it matters much.

An old man without home or friends is just about as well in one place as another.

Goodbye

Jas. X Allen

No patient can do well whose bowels are out of order, while the urine when retained or not secreted is ten times worse. In all cases of the lungs, look well to the urine!!

Document 14 Undated Letter - J. X. Allen to Alex Greer

Author: James X Allen
Date: Unknown, but paper and penmanship match Oct 25, 1876 letter
Written In: Unknown; but St Louis if written in Oct 1876 as suspected
Type: Handwritten
Recipient: Alexander Dill Greer Jr.
Photo No.: 2201
Source: Archives P104 F59

Editor's Introduction:

The only thing known for sure about this letter is that its author was James X Allen and its recipient was Alexander Dill Greer. However, the similarity of the stationary, handwriting, and signature with a letter James wrote to his wife Betsey on October 25, 1876, suggests this letter was written about the same time. Its contents are consistent with this letter having been written after the August 1876 letter to Alex Greer. Therefore, I am placing it between the two.

Selected quotes:

How is the doctor today? How does that sound? First rate?

A fool is known by his mouth. The large words on diagnosis will help

Small doses of Dovi's powder is a good cough medicine: the opium allays the irritation

Brother Alexander:

How is the doctor today?

How does that sound? First rate? I saw one of your prescriptions, which the holder said that he supposed it was your first. It was first rate anyhow, first or last.

Don't you know that it is my opinion that when you once get the start, you will do first rate. I think when your sign is out you will get some calls, and so soon as you do will feel your courage grow to giant proportions.

There are some few things that you will have to guard against.

1st : Do not prescribe for a patient until after you have seen and diagnosed the case.

2nd: Do not form a diagnosis for examining [...]

3rd: Do not be afraid of asking questions but be cautious about answering others.

A fool is known by his mouth. The large words on diagnosis will help [...] greatly after you have seen the patient once.

Never forget to inquire about stools and micturition²⁰. No patient can do well whose bowels are out of order, while the urine when retained or not secreted is ten times worse. In all cases of the lungs, look well to the urine!!

A common cough is helped by a little nitric (?). Hence, as a rule, small doses of Dovis's powder is a good cough medicine: the opium allays the irritation; the [...] reduces the inflammation and the nitric (?) helps [the] kidneys.

Give well (or Nell?) one good clean and feed for

J. X. A.

I do not know of anything that is harder to bear than ridicule, and I could not well digest the idea of being laughed at by men, women, and children, as the man that was "turned out".

Document 15 Oct 25, 1876 Letter - J. X. Allen to Betsey Allen

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: Oct 25, 1876
Written In: St Louis
Type: Handwritten
Recipient: Wife, Betsey Allen
Photo No.: 2200
Source: Archives P104 F59

Editor's Introduction:

This letter from James Allen to his wife Betsey is one of only two letters between husband and wife that survive. The other was written in 1863.

Betsey and James had been separated for a few weeks or months at the most. James appears to be feeling sorry for himself and embarrassed by his having been "turned out". He says he does not want to go away to someplace where he can be a stranger to everybody rather than confront people who "either know or guess at the truth."

Left unstated is what "truth" James is referring to. Is it merely the fact that Betsey and he have separated from one another or is it an unstated (and unknown) reason behind their separation? That question remains unanswered in this letter.

Selected quotes:

I do not feel at home here where so many either know or guess at the truth. Hence why I wanted to go where I could be a stranger to everybody.

I have walked and talked a whole week for one dollar in the insurance business.

It will take me all my time, as things now appear, to pay my board.

St. Louis, October 25, 1876

Betsey:

I borrowed thirty-five dollars to go to conference, hoping never to return here; but as no changes were made in any of the Missionary fields, of course I was not changed.

Brothers Charles Dorsey wanted to go to California; so did I; but neither of us went.

I had some thought of coming around my Pleasanton; but it means being scarce, together with pride in myself, I came directly to St. Louis.

I do not know of anything that is harder to bear than ridicule, and I could not well digest the idea of being laughed at by men, women, and children, as the man that was "turned out". I do not feel at home here where so many either know or guess at the truth. Hence why I wanted to go where I could be a stranger to everybody.

I spent the day yesterday with brother Hansen who was on his way home. Three years ago he wanted me to go south [... but] time he did not ask me, or I am not so sure that I should not have gone.

Money seems to be very scarce year. I have walked and talked a whole week for one dollar in the insurance business. It will take me all my time, as things now appear, to pay my board.

Give kind regards to Mr. and Mrs. Bicknell, whom I always think of with kindness.

J. X. Allen

Children: try and feel as kindly towards me as you can, and let us hope that all things will come out for the best.

Document 16 Oct 21, 1877 Letter - J. X. Allen to Bertha Greer

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: October 21, 1877
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Recipient: Daughter Bertha Greer
Photo Nos.: 2202-2203
Source: Archives P104 F59

Editor's Introduction:

This is the earliest surviving letter from James Allen to his oldest daughter Bertha. He wrote many years later to his grandson Samuel Allen Burgess, James remarked that he considered Bertha his best correspondent. Perhaps Bertha was more like her father than any of his other children. She, too, became a doctor, was not always easy to be with, experienced divorce (they got back together), and was outspoken.

Five letters survive between James and Bertha. The first three were written within a short, transitional period in James's life -- 1877 to 1879. The last two were written in 1911 in the final year of his life.

Fragments of this first letter are missing. The missing text is indicated by [...] in the following transcription. Most of the letter remains in tact, however, and so the contents we have represent most of what he wrote on October 21, 1877.

October 21 was the last day that he and Betsey were officially husband and wife. James would appear the next day in an Ogden courtroom and receive an official judgment that his bonds of matrimony with Betsey were dissolved. (One week later James would appear in a courtroom again, this time to marry Ellen Stevens.)

Selected quotes:

I am pleased that Sam [Burgess] is not altogether down on me, though I should not blame him or think the less of him if he were.

He knows how he has stuck to his mother. Is it not right [for] me to stick to mine?

I hope that Frank will stand by his mother and be a good boy for that is the surest way to become a good man... Let him make up his mind what he wants to do or be and then go in for being "No. 1" at that thing.

Ogden, October 21, 1877

Bertha:

You're very welcome letter [...] I was indeed, very much pleased with you. [...]

But I am satisfied that you have all [...] ought to do to do. I have made a [...] which may not be quite enough for [...]

But any trifle that you may be pleased to advance will be kindly received. And you know very well that there are but few persons that I would be willing to receive a favour from.

I am pleased that Sam is not altogether down on me, though I should not blame him or think the less of him if he were; for when I was his age I should have said and done as he has said and done. Nor do I say that he is in the least in the wrong.

He knows how he has stuck to his mother. Is it not right [for] me to stick to mine? I should be very sorry to hear of any of my children turning from their mother -no matter what might happen.

I hope that Frank will stand by his mother and be a good boy for that is the surest way to become a good man. When he wants to study for any particular branch of business, I shall be most willing to aid him to the full extent of my ability.

But I would say "Life is too short to fool away studying useless branches."

Let him make up his mind what he wants to do or be and then go in for being "No. 1" at that thing. But let all outside issues alone. Give my very best respect to Sam and family. Into as many others as you see fit. [Page 2]

I do not know what one [...] [...] think that as "Cutters are the [...]
I had best have them. [...] a Cutter's Physiology that ought, [...] [...] to come with them.

Dr. [...], in his last letter but one, tells me that "Fothergill's's Handbook of Treatment" is the last and best book out. Will you be kind enough to send it to me?

I have had a few cases lately and have got hold of some pay. I have bought a horse for \$100. I paid half down.

I send P.O. money order for \$17.00. It is all that I can now raise.

I find that each and every lecture that I have delivered has resulted in [...] my confidence among the people and I think that the best thing that I can do is to accept every invitation that may come along for lecturing.

Children: try and feel as kindly towards me as you can, and let us hope that all things will come out for the best.

Write soon to your father

J. X. Allen

She the defendant has neglected and deserted plaintive separating herself from his bed and board and that defendant's conduct has been and is such that the said parties cannot live in peace and union together and that their welfare requires a separation.

Document 17 1877 Divorce – James X Allen vs. Elizabeth Allen

Plaintiff: James X Allen
Defendant: Elizabeth Allen
Dates: September 8, 1877 (Affidavit) and October 22, 1877 (Judgment)
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Court Documents
Source: Utah State Archives, Salt Lake City, UT

Editor's Introduction:

These court papers do not begin to tell the whole story of the circumstances that led to the termination of the marriage of James and Elizabeth Allen. It is likely that the two parties mutually agreed to obtain a divorce based upon irreconcilable differences and decided that the easiest solution was for James to file papers in Ogden, possibly because it was easier to get a divorce in the Utah territory than in Iowa. Apparently all James had to declare in his affidavit was that his wife had left him. The law required that Betsey be informed of the application by publishing it in two newspapers and with a letter requesting that she appear in court if she wished to contest it. If she did not appear to contest the application, she “defaulted”.

About six weeks elapsed between the date of the affidavit and the judgment.

Curiously, the last name of all the court officials in Ogden was “Richards” – the judge himself, the clerk, and the assistant clerk. Seemed to have been a family business.

The official judgment was made on October 22. On October 29, James would appear in another Ogden court for a civil marriage with Ellen Stevens. The background story for this relationship is an abiding mystery. We only know the sad and disturbing end of the saga. In the meantime, however, we have insights from three letters James wrote to his daughter Bertha.

Selected quote:

It is ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that the Bonds of Matrimony heretofore existing between the said James X. Allen and Elizabeth Allen be, and the same are hereby forever absolutely dissolved, annulled and the made void.

Territory of Utah County of Weber
In the Probate Court in and for said County
September Term A.D. 1877
Hon. F. D. Richards, Judge

In Divorce

James X Allen, Plaintiff
vs.
Elizabeth Allen, Defendant

James X Allen the plaintiff in the above entitled case and complains and alleges

First.

That plaintiff is a resident of the County of Weber and territory of Utah and dwells in the city of Ogden.

Second.

Plaintiff and defendant are husband and wife, they intermarried at Union Fort in the Salt Lake County Territory of Utah on the 11th day of January 18 1854 and that ever since that time they have been and now are husband and wife.

Third.

That defendant has without just cause or provocation alienated herself from the society and affection of plaintiff while he the plaintiff has comfortably and abundantly provided for her the necessities and the comforts of life. She the defendant has neglected and deserted plaintive separating herself from his bed and board and that defendant's conduct has been and is such that the said parties cannot live in peace and union together and that their welfare requires A separation.

Fourth.

Plaintiff further alleges that this application for divorce is made insincerity and a necessity for the purposes herein expressed.

Therefore Plaintiff prays judgment that the bonds of matrimony existing between himself and defendant be forever absolutely dissolved and all and may void and [...].

James X Allen

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 8th day of September 1877
F. D. Richards, Probate Judge

Territory of Utah County of Weber
In the Probate Court in and for said County

September Term A.D. 1877

Hon. F. D. Richards, Judge

Affidavit

James X Allen, Plaintiff

vs.

Elizabeth Allen, Defendant

James X Allen, being first duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

First.

I am the plaintiff in the above entitled action. The complaint in said action has been duly filed with the Clerk of said Court and Summons thereupon issued. The said action is brought for the purpose of obtaining a decree of said Probate Court of Weber County, dissolving the bonds of Matrimony heretofore existing between the plaintiff and defendant.

Second.

The defendant Elizabeth Allen has for one and half years last past resided in the State of Iowa, and that her home is now at Pleasanton in the County of Decatur and State of Iowa, her last known place of residence.

Third.

I am informed by my counsel and verily believe that I have a good cause of action in this suit against the said defendant and that she Elizabeth Allen is a necessary and proper party defendant thereto.

Fourth.

Personal service upset summons cannot be made on the said defendant and I therefore ask your honor to make an order that service of the same be made by publication in the daily Ogden Junction.

James X Allen

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 10th day of September 1877

J. S Richards, Clerk Probate Court: By C.C. Richards deputy clerk

In the probate court in and for Weber County, Utah Territory

Judgment

The case of James X Allen versus Elizabeth Allen in Divorce was called. Plaintiff present. Service by publication having been duly made and evidence thereof returned into Court pursuant to law in such case made and provided. No answer having been filed and no appearance of the Defendant having been made and the defendant being three times solemnly called to come into Court to plead, answer or demur to the Complaint of the said James X Allen, in divorce, came not, but may default. Whereupon the said case of the said James X Allen versus Elizabeth Allen, in divorce, coming up for final hearing, default was entered against the said defendant and therefore the Court proceeded to an investigation of the case and after being fully advised in the premises, rendered the following Judgment and Decree, to wit:

It is ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that the Bonds of Matrimony heretofore existing between the said James X. Allen and Elizabeth Allen be, and the same are hereby forever absolutely dissolved, annulled and the made void. And that defendant pay costs of suit.

Witness my hand this Twenty-Second day of October A.D. 1877

F. D. Richards, Judge.

Bertha, my own God-given child, you will never cease to love and pray for your father? I know you will not.

Document 18

Nov 19, 1878 Letter - J. X. Allen to B. Greer

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: November 19, 1878
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Recipient: Daughter Bertha Greer
Type: Handwritten
Photo Nos.: 2204-2205
Source: Archives P104 F59

Editor's Introduction:

A little more than a year has past since James Allen and Ellen Stevens were married in a civil ceremony in Ogden, Utah. Interestingly, in neither this nor the next two letters we have that James wrote to his oldest daughter Bertha does he refer to his marriage or to Ellen. We are left to speculate as to the reasons why this omission.

The subject of most of this letter is his own state of mind and the tone is philosophical –it is a window or at least a snapshot of his soul in 1878.

Selected quotes:

What a crooked, uneven path I have troden! Always trying to do right. Always setting my mark high up but too often failing in my most anxiously striven for object.

We do things contrary to our convictions of right. We do things against our inclination. We do, sometimes, those things that seem to be most repulsive to our inmost soul. Driven or led on, as it were by powers and influences unseen and incomprehensible! Is it weakness in us, or is it destiny?

Shall we ever meet again? God alone can tell. It is an undeniable truth that "our destinies are in the hands of him who made us." Just one loving, sleepless desire: I would like to see them altogether once more.

Ogden Utah, November 19, 1878

My Dear Daughter:

It is my birthday. Forty-eight years ago I first saw daylight. What a crooked, uneven path I have trodden! Always trying to do right. Always setting my mark high up but too often failing in my most anxiously striven for object.

The gospel came along and I was happy beyond expression. You came along and unless you should become a parent, you can never conceive the ineffable bliss that your Cherub form brought to my bosom. Since that time the sunshine has been so often interrupted by clouds that I am at a loss whether to be thankful or otherwise for my continued existence.

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I do not know whether there is such a thing as fate or not. But it does look a good deal like it. How many things happened that we would rather did not happen?

Some things happen that we strive against pray against and almost hope against.

We do things contrary to our convictions of right. We do things against our inclination. We do, sometimes, those things that seem to be most repulsive to our inmost soul. Driven or led on, as it were by powers and influences unseen and incomprehensible! Is it weakness in us, or is it destiny? Perhaps, one; perhaps, the other; perhaps both!

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I am alone. (Thank God for that.) Mother has just gone to Henry Crawshaw's, formerly Presiding Elder of the church in St. Louis.

The fire is dying, which I cannot do. It has no company. I have none; I would not if I could. People say, "The Doctor is real jolly, isn't he?" How sharp some people are: Phrenologists, Physiognomists: Can read you through and through! They know it all!

I lecture on physiology in the city tomorrow night. I am familiar with my subject. I shall talk easily, tell a few stories, make some little mirth, and, perhaps say some good things. What will the folks say? Just what they

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have said before: "The Doctor doesn't have much care on his mind, or he couldn't carry all that in his head, and be as jolly with it, too, as he is."

Shall we ever meet again? God alone can tell. It is an undeniable truth that "our destinies are in the hands of him who made us." Just one loving, sleepless desire: I would like to see them altogether once more.

Bertha, my own God-given child, you will never cease to love and pray for your father? I know you will not. Providence, surely can never permit this last great shock (?) to fall upon me. Kiss Eveline and the rest for

... J.X.A

There are many things that might be said, and perhaps, that ought to be said, but just what is best to say and what is best left unsaid is a question that seems hard for me to decide.

Document 19 May 23, 1879 Letter - J. X. Allen to B Greer

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: May 23, 1879
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Recipient: Bertha Greer
Type: Handwritten
Photo Nos.: 2206-2207
Source: Archives P104 F59

Editor's Introduction:

Written about six months after the last letter, this May 18979 letter from James's spirits seem to be higher when he wrote it than they were when he wrote her in 1878. At on point he appears to jest when he wrote: *When you pass Joe Foden's, please to call in and say that I am alive and well, and that I call him a "Donkey".*

He even wishes Bertha a happy birthday, having been reminded of that fact by his mother Ann who was living with him and his wife Ellen and Ellen's daughter Nellie.

Financially, however, James still appears to be struggling. He is still renting a place to live and, although he writes that he is getting some work (presumably as a physician), he does not appear to be getting paid for it.

By May 1879 he has been married for almost two years, but he makes no mention of his wife or marriage.

Selected quotes:

I wish that I could say also that [I am] very happy and getting money. But neither of these things are true to any great extent.

Please send me the news as often as you feel like it and I will write as often as I can get my courage up.

But you know my way, "If a thing can be helped, why help it. If it cannot be helped, it is madness to grumble."

Ogden May 23, 1879

Dear Bertha:

I ought to have written you much sooner, but I did not know what to say. Neither do I know what to talk about now, for that matter. There are many things that might be said, and perhaps, that ought to be said, but just what is best to say and what is best left unsaid is a question that seems hard for me to decide. However there can be no harm in saying that I am enjoying good health and that is a good thing.

I wish that I could say also that [I am] very happy and getting money. But neither of these things are true to any great extent. I have done more work late been formerly, but money seems to be out of the question. A good deal like a little Pleasanton in this respect. But I have no home! I have to pay rent, cash at that, which is difficult to do.

I have one comfort however and that is, those most dear to me have a good home. Free from mortgage or other encumbrance. You cannot think how much comfort it affords me to remember that I have effectively put out my hand the prosperity which might have been sold or squandered.

I told you when I last wrote that I would like to help explain your loss by the [??]

Page 2: to hear from them as often as they fit to write. I would like to mention more names but I leave that to imagine all the rest.

When you pass Joe Foden's, please to call in and say that I am alive and well, and that I call him a "Donkey".

Please send me the news as often as you feel like it and I will write as often as I can get my courage up. I shall send you a paper with this mail and perhaps one to Frank. Kiss the baby for me so I would much rather do it for myself. Grandma is well and sends her love to all.

Loughreen, who lived next door to me on Washington Street is here practicing homeopathy and calls in every little while to see me. He was expecting a mission to Scandinavia but has escaped for the present.

There are several old St. Louis families living around here that I get a little news occasionally from outside sources. I hope that you are all well and more happy than I am. But you know my way, "If a thing can be helped, why help it. If it cannot be helped, it is madness to grumble."

Write soon to your affectionate

Father

Grandma says it is your birthday tomorrow; Many returns J. X. A

Well, it is about bedtime and I must say good night and God bless my go-ahead daughter!

Document 20 Jan 24, 1880 Letter - J. X. Allen to B Greer

Author: James X Allen
Date: January 24 1880
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Handwritten
Recipient: Bertha Greer
Photo Nos.: 2516-2519
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

In this letter James offers his fatherly advise to his daughter and son-in-law as they contemplate the purchase of a farm in Pleasanton, Iowa. (We know that Bertha and Alex had decided to buy a 67-acre farm by July of 1880 and that they expected to get possession in September. The source of this information is The Burgess Journal.)

At the end of the letter James makes reference to his daughter Sybilia and son Franklin, each of whom in 1880 was living near Bertha Greer in Pleasanton, Iowa.

By January 1880 Sybilia had had the first of three daughters born to her in Iowa - Elizabeth May Zenor - named after her mother. "May" would eventually marry Al Knapp and have ten children. Her second daughter, named Bertha after Syb's sister, lived only 11 months and the third daughter - named Eveline after Syb's other sister - died in her seventeenth year of life. A son Boner was born in Nebraska in 1892.

Franklin (age 14 in 1880) would marry Mary Brown in 1888 and have two children, a daughter Bertha Budge Allen and a son Ralph X Allen. He would later divorce Mary and remarry Alma May Porter and move to Del Rio, Texas.

A 25-year gap exists unfortunately between this 1880 letter and the next family letter in 1905. Obviously the aforementioned events and many more births and deaths would occur in the family during the intervening years. The reader is directed to *Saints, Seekers, Settlers, and Spirits* to learn more about them.

Selected quotes:

As to your purchasing the farm; it looks to me like a great deal of money to borrow.

I would like to say a great deal more, but I suppose I must not.

Ogden Jan 24, 1880

Bertha:

Yours came tonight and I was much pleased to hear from you. I am glad that you are all well. Very glad that Frank got money all right, had begun to grow anxious about it.

As to your purchasing the farm; it looks to me like a great deal of money to borrow. I should be afraid of being so much in debt, I have made a figure and if I read it right speaks well for you.

The price is rather high, but the seller is not very anxious and will not come down much. The land is mostly good, but some of it is dry and not much account. Should you conclude

[Page 2]

to purchase you will be able to pay the money back.

Taking it all in all the figure is good. [Jupiter?] is retro grade in the ascendant which shows that you will not get through with the thing without some trouble, but in the long run you will come out alright.

This is how I interpret the figure.

Now looking at the thing naturally, if you pay out all your money, how are you two get along for seed and team?

How are you to live until you raise a crop?

Where is your plows, arrows (?) and things to come from? Of course, if Alex can work the farm while you are

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away getting money, why of course that will be alright. But you cannot plow without team. You cannot plant without seed, you cannot raise stock without mares, cows, pigs, chickens, etc. to begin with. How about all of these things?

Of course if you can work in St. Louis in the millinery season and get money that way; and practice mid-wifery and phisic (?) the neighbors children when at home and get money that way, why of course it will all be very well.

How is that? Can you do it? Or can you make dresses, bonnets, etc. at home and so keep up? How is that?

However the figure is good and therefore, I suppose that you may go ahead.

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Well, it is about bedtime and I must say good night and God bless my go-ahead daughter!

I want you to kiss Syb's baby for me and tell it how its grandfather very, very much like to kiss it himself and give it a real good talking to.

Frank does not write as good a hand as I had expected to see. Tell him to go ahead, and when he needs any help to say so plainly, and if I have anything he shall have it with all the pleasure in the world.

I would like to say a great deal more, but I suppose I must not.

Father

... the Plaintiff [shall] have, ... for her separate sole use and benefit, all their household goods and furniture, their buggy and harness, and \$250 in cash. That Plaintiff resume her maiden name Ellen Stevens.

Document 21 1881 Divorce – Ellen Allen vs. James X Allen

Plaintiff: Ellen Stevens Allen
Defendant: James X Allen
Dates: February 14, 1881
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Court Documents
Source: Utah State Archives, Salt Lake City, UT

Editor's Introduction:

The disturbing document among this entire collection of documents associated with the life of James X Allen is the affidavit filed in court in February 1881 by his second wife Ellen Stevens Allen. One cannot help but imagine the courtroom scene as 50-year old James and his 48-year old wife Ellen stood before the same Judge Richards that had granted James his divorce from Elizabeth in the same courtroom just four years before and the words read aloud:

*Grabbed [her] by the throat...
Choked her so violently...
Threatened to cut [her] throat ... To kill her*

Who was this James Allen? Was he a monster? What had become of him since his first wife Elizabeth had “turned him out”? How does Ellen’s affidavit affect our opinion of him? The reader is invited to ponder these questions, as I have no good answers other than to observe this document is a window into the dark side of the soul of a man who had perhaps, at age 50, reached rock-bottom.

Another explanation of the disturbing contents of Ellen’s affidavit is that contains false statements that were “required” to provide the judge grounds to approve the divorce.

Nellie’s affidavit states that the marriage produced no issue. The birth of Ellen’s daughter Nellie (b. 1872) precedes her 1877 marriage to James, but had James been Nellie’s biological father, one might expect her to be mentioned in the affidavit.

We know that 18 months after this divorce James would marry a recent immigrant from England who was only a little older than half his age – Julia Augusta Morgan. His third and last marriage would produced four children and last until his death.

In the Probate Court in and for Weber County, Utah Territory

Complaint

Ellen Allen, Plaintiff

vs.

James X Allen, Defendant

The plaintiff complains and alleges

1st: That she is now, and has been for more than one year last past, an actual bona fide resident of Weber County, Utah territory, within the jurisdiction of this court.

2nd: That plaintiff and defendant are husband and wife; that they intermarried at Ogden City in the County of Weber and Territory of Utah on the 29th day of October 1877 and ever since have been and now are husband and wife.

3rd: That said marriage is without issue.

4th: That on several different days the Defendant has grabbed the Plaintiff by her throat and then and there choked her so violently as to make her spit or vomit blood, and has on several occasions threatened to cut this plaintiff's throat or to kill her and that by the aforesaid cruelty he has caused this plaintiff great bodily injury and great mental distress.

5th: That the tempers and dispositions of Plaintiff and Defendant are so different and incompatible that they cannot live in peace and union together.

6th: That this application for divorce is made in sincerity and of plaintiffs own free will and choice.

Therefore plaintiff prays judgment that the bonds of matrimony now existing between the plaintiff and defendant be forever dissolved, I know, and made void, and that she be awarded and just to have that joint property of the cut and show all this furniture and household goods, Their buggy and harness and \$250 in lawful money of the United States and for permission to resume her maiden name Alan Stevens and for costs of suit.

Ellen Allen

Subscribed and Sworn to before me/this 14th day of February 1881
SM. Richards, Clerk /By John Hamer, Deputy

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In the Probate Court in and for Weber County, Utah Territory

Decree of Divorce

Ellen Allen, Plaintiff

vs.

James X Allen, Defendant

This cause having been brought on to be heard this Fourteenth day of February A D 1881, upon the Complaint of plaintiff on file herein, taken as confessed by the Defendant. Both parties being personally present in Court, appearing without service. And it appearing to the Court from the testimony of witnesses who were examined, that all the allegations contained in the plaintiff's complaint are true and that the matters and things as alleged and proved are sufficient to entitle the plaintiff to the relief prayed for in her complaint.

Wherefore by virtue of the law and by reason of the premises,

It is Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed by the Court that the Bonds of Matrimony heretofore existing between the said Ellen Allen and James X Allen be, and the same are hereby forever absolutely dissolved, annulled and made void. That the Plaintiff have and retain of the joint property of Plaintiff and Defendant for her separate sole use and benefit, all their Household goods and furniture; their buggy and harness and Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars in cash. That Plaintiff resume her maiden name Ellen Stevens and that Defendant pay the costs of the suit.

Done in open Court this 14th day of February A.D. 1881

F. D. Richards/ Probate Judge.

I came to America to make it my home, and therefore I went again into the services and remained until the war close.

Document 22 May 25, 1888 Dictation - J. X. Allen to L H Nichols

Author: James X Allen
Date: May 25, 1888
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Microfilm, Handwritten
Source: Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, California

Editor's Introduction:

At the end of the nineteenth century author and historian Hubert Bancroft wrote about the history of the West. In part to sell his books and in part to collect information from prominent Westerners, Bancroft sent assistants to interview men and women of prominence in the West. In 1888 one such assistant, L H Nichols, interviewed James X Allen. His account was recorded as a "Dictation" and collected with many other dictations and kept by Bancroft. These dictations have been put on microfilm and stored in the archives of the University of California in Berkeley, California. On November 1, 2013 I visited the archives and made a photocopy that I later transcribed.

The dictation itself is brief, and yet it is the closest thing we have to an autobiography by James Allen, himself. It is primarily focused on how he became a physician of some prominence in Utah (the reason he was chosen to be interviewed), but it also contains information about his history as a Mormon and of his views of polygamy.

After the interview, L H Nichols wrote note to Bancroft, the purpose of which was to assess the likelihood that Allen had the financial wherewithal and interest to buy one of Bancroft's history books. The note suggests that Nichols did not view Allen as a very good prospect, describing him as "quite peculiar" and "a student, but not in historical directions."

Selected quotes:

I told them I was a subject of the Queen.

While I do not regard polygamy immoral, I do not think it right.

[J. X. Allen] is quite peculiar and a student, but not in historical directions.

Dictation of Dr. James X Allen Ogden Weber Co Utah [May 1888]

I was born in England in 1830 was educated there and began the study of medicine there. In 1853 I came to Utah and resided two years in Salt Lake City and in [18]55 came to Ogden and made this my home until [18]59 when I went east intending to complete my medical course in St Louis. I was sick some time and when I had recovered fully the war broke out and I was urged to go into the Confederate services and as I had received instruction in England and was a swordsman was offered a commission. But I felt I could not come into a country and take up arms against the Government and so I enlisted on the side of the north in the 5th M[iss]O[uri] Cavalry which was disbanded after one years service. I then went to the medical college and returning from lectures one day was picked up by the provost guard and taken before the Marshall and told I must go into the services. I told them I was a subject of the Queen, and I was told to go to the British Counsel and get protection papers. This I would not do for I had declared my intention of becoming a Citizen and I came to America to make it my home, and therefore I went again into the services and remained until the war closed.

I was immediately made Hospital Steward and was later made acting Surgeon in charge of a Post Hospital where I had experience of great value to me and what at first seemed a hardship proved to be a very fortunate occurrence. After the war I returned to St Louis and completed my course graduating in 1867 and practiced in St Louis until 1877 when I returned again to Ogden and continue my practice here.

When eleven years of age I became a mormon (sic) and am still in the Church. While in St Louis I became a Mason and was Post Master of M[iss]O[uri] Lodge No 1 the first Lodge West of the Missouri River and I was five years G[rand] L[odge]. In Utah I am not admitted to Masonic lodges because I belong to the Mormon Church. I find no fault with this because one of the requisites in Masonry is that one shall be loyal to the Government under which they live and in Utah it is regarded unsafe to admit anyone belonging to a church that allows polygamy contrary to law.

While I do not regard polygamy immoral, I do not think it right when opposed to the law and have long felt it must go and I firmly believe it would have disappeared without legislation. The people are growing away from it and the policy of the Church will be changed.

Agent's Report on Persons Interviewed: LH Nichols; May 25, 1888*

Dr. Allen is a very skillful physician and surgeon and [is] a man [of] much general information. He is occupied in scientific study more than in historical.

Physician: Standing good. This D[octo]r is not rich but amply able to get this work and a man of some means – He is *quite peculiar* and a student, but not in historical directions. However he says he will see this work and so it is possible I might get an order. It may be best to answer (?) this but don't use too much "oil". It is fair to regard him as a man of learning (?); he is an investigation (?) that looks (?) to display (?) into matters and takes nothing for granted. He is decidedly broadquage (?).

* LH Nichols had an ulterior motive for interviewing prominent citizens for Hubert Bancroft – he was a salesman. Bancroft was a prolific author and multi-volume histories of the West, and Nichols hoped that interviewees would buy Bancroft's "Work".

*April 8, 1901: I got a beautiful letter from **my father** in the morning. In the evening one Mr. Colby, addressing me as the "The champion lady chess player of St Louis" of course I was flattered -- the letter is in consequence of my winning in the contest mentioned above.*

Document 23 1892 – 1910 *Burgess Journal* by Eveline Burgess

Author: Eveline Allen Burgess
Dates: 1892 - 1911
Written In: St. Louis, Missouri
Type: Journal Entries
Source: Evans Family Files, Burgess Journal 1868 - 1918

Editor's Introduction:

No records survive of any contacts between James X Allen and his "first family" from Christmas Dinner in 1876 until Christmas morning of 1892, when Eveline recorded that all her children had received \$0.40 from their grandfather.

What broke the communications logjam (assuming there was one.) Perhaps it was a visit the previous summer to Ogden made by Mary Burgess (mother of Samuel Burgess) and Martha Burgess (sister of Samuel Burgess). According to the July 10, 1892 journal entry, among the relatives they visited was "father" – i.e.. James Allen. In 1892 he was 60 years old and an Ogden physician. His third marriage had produced a "2nd family" of three children -- Beatrice (age 9), Claire (age 7) and James (age 5). Unborn in July 1892 was a fourth child, Veda (born in 1893).

Almost ten years would go by before the next record of any communication between St Louis and Ogden. James himself made trip east and visited his children in the summer of 1903. Two weeks after he visited St Louis, his grandson Samuel went west. Although the main purpose of this trip was to settle with the heirs of his great Uncle Samuel Burgess's daughter Elizabeth (AKA 'Cousin Lizzie'), he spent three days with his grandfather in Ogden. The two men formed a tight bond that produced a series of letters that Samuel Allen later donated to the Church of Christ archives.

Selected quotes:

July 10, 1892: Grandma Burgess and Martha went to Utah ... they visited father.

June 23, 1903: My Father came ... He will visit me for a about a week.

July 6, 1903: Samuel A[l]len] started on his trip to Ogden ...

June 7, 1910: Dr. J. X. Allen (father) arrived this evening from Ogden, Utah.

Excerpts from *The Burgess Journal*

1892

July 10: Grandma Burgess and Martha went to Utah and remained a month while there they visited **father**, Aunt Sarah, Cousin Lucy and the cousins in Denver.

Dec 25: Grandchildren received \$0.40 each from **grandfather** [about \$15 today].

1893

Dec 25: Grandchildren received \$0.25 each from **grandfather** [about \$10 today].

1901

Mar 26: I finished my games in the Ladies Chess tourney at the Office Men's Club and won first place score 9 ½ won ½ loss. | Apr 8: I got a beautiful letter from **my father** in the morning. In the evening one Mr. Colby, addressing me as the "The champion lady chess player of St Louis" of course I was flattered -- the letter is in consequence of my winning in the contest mentioned above.

1903

June 23: **My Father** came on the 3 P.M. train from Burlington – he has been visiting at Lamoni (Dr. B.A. Greer) and Nebraska (Sybil Zenor). He will visit me for a about a week. | June 24: Harold came home to spend the night – he has passes for Denver, Colorado Springs, Ogden | June 29: **Father** started to Kansas City to visit Franklin

July 6: Samuel A started on his **trip to Ogden** to settle with the heirs in Cousin Lizzie's estate. | June 29: Harold started west to visit and see the sights. | July 29: The two boys reached home this evening after a most enjoyable trip and a most successful one having settled with the heirs of Cousin Lizzie – visited all the relations and friends – coming home by way of Denver – visiting Pike's Peak – Colorado Springs and other places of interest.

1908

July 23: ...Sammy and Sybil started for a two-month trip to ... Denver ... Salt Lake City, Sandy, **Ogden**, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and La Jolla – returning via Grand Canyon

Sept 17: Sammy and Sybil returned this evening from their trip having had the "time of their lives" they saw all they started out to see and much more – they were received with most hearty welcome by friends and relations in every stopping place.

1910:

June 7: **Dr. J. X. Allen** (father) arrived this evening from Ogden, Utah.

December 27: We received a telegram announcing the death of **my father (Dr. J. X. Allen) of Ogden** – he had been having severe heart trouble for some time and died quite suddenly.

As there are worlds hundreds, nay, thousands, of times larger than the earth, is it not possible, yea even probable, that those giant-orbs can be and are inhabited by beings as far in advance of us as we are in advance of the South Sea islanders? If there be anything preposterous in the idea advanced, I, for one, do not see it.

Document 24 1904 Suggestive Thoughts for the Mildly Skeptical

Author: Dr. J. X Allen
Date: March (I), June (II), September (III), November (IV) 1904
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: L.D.S. Publication
Source: *The Improvement Era*, Volume 7

Editor's Introduction:

In 1904, at age 73, James published two articles in the LDS publication *Improvement Era*, an organ of the *Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association*. The first, entitled *Suggestive Thoughts for the Mildly Skeptical* is a 5000-word exposition on the source of human intelligence. James's *Suggestive Thoughts* was a tour de force. Its four segments argue the case for a divine source of human intelligence on scientific knowledge and recent technological advances.

James was proud of this work and pleased with the response it had gotten. In a September 1906 letter to his son-in-law Samuel Rostron Burgess, he wrote:

I only send you the numbers of the "*Era*" that have my articles in them. By the bye, I get lots of flattery from abroad. The Elders in the field seem to enjoy them very much. I got a long and flattering letter this morning from Apostle Grant of the British Mission praising my contributions very much.

Selected quotes:

Everything is governed by law ...What is the need or use of a God?"

Are not children brought up by parents wiser than themselves?

What doth it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Suggestive Thoughts for the Mildly Skeptical

The reasons assigned by skeptics for doubting the existence of a Supreme Ruler of the universe are so many and varied that it would be impossible for me to attempt meeting them all in the brief space usually occupied by contributors to this journal. Neither do I intend to quote scripture to those who doubt its inspiration. My object is to suggest a few thoughts for the consideration of thinkers.

First. There is unlimited space.

Second. There is unlimited time.

Third. There is unlimited intelligence. From due consideration of these three propositions, I conclude that there must be a

Fourth. Namely, unlimited power, wisdom and benevolence.

The first proposition, I admit, is not demonstrable; but it is a hypothesis universally admitted. Should we say, There is a limit to space, the question would very naturally arise: What is there on the other side? I think we may consider this proposition settled, especially as I address myself to thinkers only.

That there is unlimited time may not be so readily consented to. Of course, there is no one known universal measurement of time. But I opine that no well-read thinker will question the statement that all known, as well as all conceivable, parts of the universe have time, although their measurements are varied. This second proposition is much of the same nature as the first. Time is simply a measure of eternity. We cannot conceive of either a beginning or an ending.

Perhaps it would not be amiss to call attention to a few of the various times of which we are cognizant. With us the civil day is from midnight to midnight. The astronomer's day is from high noon to high noon; while the scriptural day is from sunset to sunset: "And the evening and the morning was the first day," etc. A day on this earth is about twenty-four hours, while a day on the sun is some twenty-five times as long; while a day on Mars is but forty minutes longer than with us. Jupiter, although thirteen hundred times larger than the earth, has a day but five twelfths as long.

This persistence of time is deducible from two ascertained facts: namely, the indestructibility of matter, and the universality of law and order.

From spectral analysis, philosophers conclude that the constituent elements of all worlds are pretty much the same, and that these elements are non-perishable.

There is a oneness everywhere in substance and in the laws of motion.

From these two propositions, we infer the third; namely, There is unlimited intelligence. Everywhere the same laws of attraction and repulsion obtain. There is universal order, no confusion. The same laws govern all worlds.

From the preceding statements, it is reasonable to conclude that one and the same creator or architect has control of the whole. The oneness of the universe is detectable, not only in the anatomy of all the heavenly bodies, but also in their physiology, showing that they are presided over by one conscious, intelligent mind.

Although I promised not to quote scripture, I think it would not be amiss to give a quotation from Cicero, as translated in Rollin's history:

We ought, above all things, to be convinced that there is a Supreme Being who presides over all the events of the world, and disposes everything as Sovereign Lord and Arbiter: that it is to him mankind are in debted for all the good they enjoy: that he penetrates into, and is conscious of whatever passes in the most secret recesses of our hearts: that he treats the just and the impious according to their respective merits: that the true means of acquiring his favor, and of being pleasing in his sight, is not by employing riches and magnificence in the worship that is paid to him, but by presenting him with a heart pure and blameless, and by adoring him with an unfeigned, profound veneration.

This Roman scholar and philosopher, though not cognizant of the numbered worlds revealed by the instruments of precision called into requisition by modern astronomers, could see a oneness of design, a unity of arrangement, that precluded the possibility of chance.

Discord, disorder, irregularity, contradiction and inconsistency may be the result of chance; but order, harmony, beauty, and consistency, when universal and persistent, must be and of necessity are the productions of infinite intelligence, wisdom and goodness.

This universality of law, commonly spoken of as the law of nature, is considered and spoken of by many as being the "Great First Cause,"—self-originated and self-perpetuated; while more deeply reflecting minds conclude that, of necessity, there must be a something at the back of and beyond nature. Can there be a shadow independent of substance, or a result without a cause?

One is almost induced to regard the doubting of the existence of an uncreated spirit of infinite intelligence and wisdom beyond nature, as savoring, if not of insanity, at least of a degree of mental imbecility. Instance: Recently an old friend of mine, a skeptic by nature and a lawyer by profession, came into my office and said:

"Doctor: I cannot see any need that we have for a God. Everything is governed by law, the planets move in their orbits by law, and the whole of the animal and vegetable kingdoms are governed and perpetuated by law. What is the need or use of a God?"

Doctor: "True, the mineral, the animal and the vegetable kingdoms are all governed by law. Is not this city governed by law?"

Lawyer: "Why, yes, certainly we are governed by law, or we would be in a bad fix if we were not."

Doctor: "Is not the state governed by law?"

Lawyer: "Of course it is, or it would not be a state; it would be simply a mob, a rabble."

Doctor: "Are not the United States governed by law?"

Lawyer: "Why, of course they are. We could not live in the absence of law."

Doctor: "Well, seeing that the city, the state and the nation are governed by law, what need have we of a mayor and city council? What need for a governor and legislature? What need for a president and congress, seeing that everything and everybody are governed by law everywhere? Why not dispense with all these useless and expensive appendages, and live in perfect freedom; free from taxes and all restraint?"

Lawyer: "Look here, what is the matter with you?"

Doctor: "What is the matter with you? You are the enigma. Do you know of any laws that have not some intelligent authorship? Do you not think that there is and must be a conscious intelligence at the back of every beneficent law?"

Lawyer: "Well, I declare, I never looked at it in that light before. I must take time to consider your, to me, new style of arguing the question."

II.

There is unlimited intelligence in the mineral kingdom:²¹ You are wandering in the mountains, and incidentally you come upon a crystal—it may be of any size, from an ounce to pounds—you pick it up and examine it minutely, you find that it has a given number of faces, and the same number of angles—that all the faces have the same inclination to each other: that all the angles are of exactly the same size, containing exactly the same number of degrees. The crystal is perfect. If you are not versed in mineralogy, nor in chemistry, you wonder what it is composed of. If you have a friend whom you know to have studied the natural sciences, you take your crystal home, and subsequently you interrogate your friend about your find. After trying to scratch it with his pocket knife, and noting its faces and angles, he tells you that it is crystallized silicon, or a quartz crystal. He speaks with such positiveness that you are satisfied that your

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²¹ There is a possibility that some readers will misunderstand Dr. Allen, and identify the form of the intelligence occurring in the mineral kingdom with that occurring in living things. The intelligent action of the Spirit of God undoubtedly stands behind every phenomenon in the universe, yet there is an essential difference between the organized intelligence capable of volition, and the non-living material, which, under the influence of universal intelligence, is made to assume forms of symmetry. The living thing grows from within; the thing not alive grows by additions from the outside. —
Editors.

friend knows what he is talking about. You then want to know how it came to have that beautiful form. And he tells you that it did not always have that form, that at some past period it was amorphous, that is, that it had no organized form, but that it was in a liquid state, so that the molecules of which it is composed could move freely among themselves, the frictional resistance not being too great to impede their natural propensity, they arranged themselves in the order in which you now see them; that on becoming colder with time, the friction was too great for further movement, and they have remained in the delightful shape into which they once marshaled themselves.

"But," you say, "how could the molecules move themselves? I have always heard it said that the earth and all that compose it are dead, having neither life nor intelligence. How then could the molecules, as you call them, move themselves?"

He will then, most likely, tell you that there was a time when it was generally believed that God worked all the wonders in the earth at the time of the creation. And later on, it was supposed that the angels performed miracles of this kind, and that even now there are many who attribute to the fairies the many wonders revealed by mother earth.

Have you ever examined a light flake of snow with a magnifying glass, and noticed the beautiful crystals contained therein? Snow crystals are composed of water. They are all six-sided, and they present many beautiful figures. A piece of charcoal, graphite, and the diamond, are all composed of the same substance, carbon; but carbon acts differently under different conditions. Scientists call condition the environment. A great deal depends upon the environment. You take a little sugar or a little salt and pulverize it, leave it in a dry place and atmosphere; and, at the expiration of a month, you examine it under a magnifying glass, and you will find that it has undergone no perceptible change. But you dissolve your sugar or alum, as the case may be, and leave it in a place where the water can evaporate, and, after it has been evaporated to dryness, you again examine it with your magnifying glass, and you will find that beautiful crystals have formed. All matter has a certain power of motion. In the dry state, the molecules of sugar cannot overcome the friction of the neighboring particles, which prevents it from moving so as to assume the crystallized form.

Now, when you look at a crystal, you see an intelligent form or design. You then ask yourself, "Can there be an intelligent result independent of an intelligent cause?" Now, if with the scientist you discard the miraculous, you have to conclude that the intelligence must of necessity reside in the molecules themselves. Geologists understand that there is no such thing as inert matter, but that all atoms possess a certain power of motion and a certain sphere of action.

Intelligence in the vegetable kingdom: If you have the time and the patience to carefully note the leaf of a tree, you will find that it performs the functions attributed to the stomach and lungs of an animal. It digests the food of the plant or tree; it also absorbs the atmosphere just as do our lungs, with this difference: The lungs of the animal appropriate the oxygen of the atmosphere, and exhale the carbonic acid which is brought to the lungs in the venous blood, while the leaf of the plant (when green and in sunlight) absorbs the common atmosphere and appropriates the carbon dioxide for the upbuilding of its tissues.

Perhaps it would not be amiss to give a very brief epitome of vegetable physiology: The rootlets absorb the water from the soil. Soil-water is impregnated with the salts contained in the neighborhood of the rootlets, so that not only water, but the necessary salts for the nourishment of the tree or vegetable, are absorbed by the rootlets, and by them, to some extent, pumped through the trunk of the tree to the leaves. The leaves are provided with breathing tubes, by which they take in the oxygen and carbon dioxide (with some nitrogen) which is dissolved in the water, and by the aid of the sun's rays, they manufacture living protoplasm. The excess of water is evaporated, by the leaves generating capillary attraction, thereby greatly assisting the process of the circulation of the sap, and the digested food, protoplasm, is distributed to wherever it is needed.

When the sunlight strikes the leaves, they do not consume all of the oxygen absorbed, and, therefore, they exhale much oxygen into the surrounding air. But in the nighttime, they exhale carbon dioxide, the same as animals.

Perhaps it is time that we should define what we mean by "Intelligence." One of the definitions given by Webster is; "The act of knowing." I have met some pretty well posted men who say that intelligence is spirit. With many people spirit and soul are synonymous. I call to mind the saying of a German philosopher who puts forth this saying: "The soul is asleep in vegetation; dreaming in the brute creation; and is awake in man." It would seem that the three words—intelligence, spirit and soul, were understood to be synonymous with him.²² I do not propose to either defend or attack this philosopher's statement. The first definition of Webster will answer my purpose very well. Why do the roots of the tree always travel in the direction of water? No matter in what direction the moisture may be—east, west, north or south, or perpendicular, that is the direction in which the roots travel. It is because they know how to act. That is intelligence. Some one will say, "It is their nature to feel after the water." True enough! But, seriously, don't you think that there must, of necessity, be a something at the back of and beyond nature?

The leaves supply the whole tree with oxygen. They manufacture all that is essential for the tree's well being. They make living protoplasm, which no living man can do. They know how to act. That is intelligence. I do not say that the vegetable world possesses conscious intelligence, but intelligence is there, all the same. You pick up a leaf that has lain in a damp place for a long time. All the flesh (mesophyl) has fallen from it. You have a wondrously formed skeleton leaf. Every rib and vein and veinlet is so beautifully and intelligently arranged! Can you for a moment imagine that this artistic design was by accident, or even self designed? You may say nature did it. God walks through nature. Nature's laws are God's laws, and nature is his workshop or laboratory.

III.

Whence does man derive his intelligence? There is an idea prevalent, among skeptics and agnostics, that man is the highest product of nature, that there exists no

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²² The identification of intelligence with the soul and the spirit is, perhaps, questionable. Intelligence is a quality, a form of energy. Spirit is a form of matter. Intelligence is not spirit, but a quality of spirit. —Editors

intelligences higher than man, in any world discovered or undiscovered, that there is not any being in existence that surpasses him in either mechanism or in mentality.

Our forefathers believed that this earth was the all-important world of worlds, that the sun, moon and stars were all secondary; that is, were mere adjuncts to this earth, that they were made for our pleasure and convenience—mainly for light and ornamentation.

May it not be possible that the first proposition may turn out to be equally fallacious with the second? We now realize that instead of being the centre of the solar system, and of the universe, the earth, is on a map of the heavens, something like what a flyspeck is on a map of the world, almost too insignificant for serious consideration.

As there are worlds hundreds, nay, thousands, of times larger than the earth, is it not possible, yea even probable, that those giant-orbs can be and are inhabited by beings as far in advance of us as we are in advance of the South Sea islanders? If there be anything preposterous in the idea advanced, I, for one, do not see it.

And again, many of these mighty, distant worlds are allowed to be many times older than is our earth. May not the occupants of those older worlds have a more extended experience than we have? We know that the arts and sciences advance from century to century with us; and, judging the unknown by the known, may we not, without doing violence to reason, suspect that an enlarged experience in an older, and far more noble world, may result in a superior intelligence?

It is wonderful to contemplate upon the many and great changes that have taken place in the thoughts and ideas of men within the space of a few hundred years: When Sir Isaac Newton declared his belief that the sun was as much as five millions of miles distant from the earth, many astronomers thought that his mind was weakening. Five million miles! The distance was too great for the mind to conceive of. We now know that it is nearly twenty times that distance, and it is a very close neighbor, as compared with the great majority of the heavenly bodies.

Bacteriology was in its infancy, but a short time ago. Today, the microscopic will show you living creatures, both animal and vegetable, a thousand times more minute than the ancients ever conceived of. It being demonstrated beyond all dispute that there are innumerable living creatures, thousands of times more minute than the ancients ever dreamed of, is it not strongly presumptive that there may be living intelligences many times our superiors?

And now comes our question: Whence does man obtain his intelligence, which is so very far in advance of that of all other earthly creatures? Let us look around for a short time. We have seen that there are signs of life and intelligence in the most minute particles of matter, —not necessarily conscious intelligence, but it is there all the same.

Somebody has said that all life is the same, differing not in kind but in quantity. May it not be the same with intelligence? A man is not conscious when he is sound asleep, but he is alive, and will shrink from an irritant just as if he were awake. There is much talk just now about sub-consciousness. May there not be a sub-conscious state? May not a sleeping sub-conscious condition obtain in every molecule of matter, seeing that the molecules moor so precisely and methodically in forming crystals of the many

elementary as well as compound substances? Yet, we cannot conceive of man deriving his superior mind from the mineral kingdom. Neither can we conceive how it can come from the vegetable world; although we know the vegetable to be far in advance of the mineral kingdom. Do we, then, get our superior minds from the brute condition? Thousands of illustrations of animal intelligence can easily be called to mind, but it would be, simply, a waste of time and labor to cite them, as every man with a reflective mind knows full well that all good comes from above, and not from below.

All life, whether animal or vegetable, is maintained by the supra-mundane trinity—air, rain and sunshine. I take it to be axiomatic that man's intelligence is no exception to the rule.

I am aware that one man will tell you that our intellectuality is from parents through heredity, while another will say that it is absorbed or manufactured from the food we eat; while another, that it is condensed experience, and that environment is the chief factor in making us what we are. I leave these statements to the good sense of my readers, as a discussion of them would be too tedious for these pages.

Right here let me propound a few questions, one question under varied circumstances. Did you ever know of a boy, wishing an education in the arts, mechanics or the classics, being put under the tutelage of a master more ignorant than himself? Are not children brought up by parents wiser than themselves? Do school boards employ teachers less advanced than the pupils who are committed to their charge? In every case, the good is from above. The food we eat is manufactured by the vegetable leaves out of the air, rain and sunshine, with a small admixture of mineral dissolved in the soil by the waters from above. The very coal that warms us in winter is, metaphorically speaking, crystallized sunlight! The very dews of heaven that make our glorious country so fruitful and Eden-like, although their native home is the vast ocean, before they can administer to our lives and pleasures, are first lifted out of their native depths by the life-giving rays of the father of light, to an elevation miles above terra firma, whence they descend to happy the children of men

Do we exaggerate when we say that "all good comes from above?" I think not. You go to the spring for water; you know that unless there exists a fountain of water higher than the spring, you will come back as you went—without the wherewith to quench your thirst. You know that the spring is but the short arm of an inverted siphon. Your city lady resorts to the hydrant to replenish your water pail; but, were there not a reservoir situated in a more elevated locality, you might twist the faucet until doomsday, for all the good it would do you.

Do you not think that the rule holds good with regard to the human intellect? I opine that there is, and of necessity must be, a fountain of intelligence as much higher than man, as the heavens are higher than the earth, else our efforts to exaltation would be vain indeed. This fountain of goodness we call God!

I think I hear some simple one asking: "If there be a God who is so very wise and benevolently disposed, why does he not teach us more? Why not advance us more rapidly in the scale of being?" etc. While I would not undertake to defend the Father of the human race, who is too powerful to need my feeble arm, nor would I presume to offer excuses for his conduct towards his children, he being too wise to need my

infantile effort, yet, by way of suggestion, I will ask a question: Why don't you put your boy in pants while he is still an infant? Why don't you start your child in the eighth grade, instead of in the Kindergarten? Why don't you put the roof on your house before you secure the foundation? Why don't you plant your grain before you prepare the ground, or why don't you grind your grain before it is ripe? And there are, O, so many whys that I must stop, for eternity is too short to ask and answer one tithe of the whys, that spring up all around.

Dear reader, I must apologize for so long a talk, but my excuse is, if you will kindly accept it, I feel friendly toward you. God, who made you, loves you, and I want you to believe that he is, and be reconciled to him.

IV.

Were the Prophets inspired? In the beginning of this article, I promised not to quote scripture to those who doubted its inspiration; but if you will excuse me, I would like to suggest a few thoughts which seem to imply a possibility of more than ordinary foresight in, at least, one of the sacred writers; namely, the Prophet Joel.

In chapter two, verse 28, we read: "It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh," etc. The time when this great outpouring of the Spirit is to occur does not strike one at first as being very definite; but many men of learning in ancient writings, paraphrase this passage by substituting for "afterward," "in the last days," which substitution seems to be justifiable, after reading a little further along, — verse 31: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." We think, with many men far better posted, that the last quotation fully justifies the amended reading.

Of course, I am aware that scriptionaries will tell you that the passage quoted was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. On that day there certainly was a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That there was a partial fulfillment of the blessing promised, there can be no question; but that the promise was only partially fulfilled becomes evident, on a closer examination of the text.

"In the last days." The Pentecost took place in the meridian of time, and not in the evening; for if we call those "the last days," what are these? Again, "upon all flesh," or more literally, "all nations." On the day of Pentecost the blessing was not universal. It did not result in good to all nations. Again, that time could not, with any degree of propriety, be spoken of as "The dreadful day of the Lord."

But how about the nineteenth century? How about the marvelous enlightenment which has come into the world, since the year 1820, when, as Joseph Smith tells us, "the heavens were opened," and a great light fell upon him, and the Holy One of Israel appeared unto him? Have you ever thought of that time as the commencement of the mightiest outpouring of light that the world has ever experienced? I may mention a few of the great revelations that have been vouchsafed to man since that eventful year.

In the year 1825, George Stephenson ran the first passenger train in England. Mr. Stephenson was an illiterate man, born in the humblest walks of life, unblest with either education or wealth. Can you not see that a higher intelligence had a part in that

astounding revelation of untold benefit to the nations? Is it possible to imagine that great light was obtained from any lower or inferior source? We must admit, in all reverence and humility, that God was and is the author of all good. Mr. Stephenson was the honored instrument in the hands of the Almighty in blessing the sons of men.

What shall we say of electricity? And what of Charles Wheatstone, who is said to be the father of practical electricity? In the year 1837, Charles Wheatstone took out a grant for the building of the first telegraph line, for which the British Government created him knight. Was it mere chance which enabled Sir Charles to harness this wonderful force? A force that is inexhaustible, all powerful, and of inexpressible benefit to "all nations?" We fail to see any chance about it. It is God's power long held in reserve for the blessing of the nations, in God's own due time.

It is not necessary that I should amplify further on this subject, nor is it necessary to expatiate upon telegraphy, wireless telegraphy, the numerous improvements in machinery, both in the shop and on the farm; in steam apparatus and printing.

In the 40's, Lord Ross completed his large telescope, by which the heavens were wonderfully multiplied to our vision. In 1844, Dr. Simpson made the discovery of chloroform which has proved such a blessing to "all flesh." What shall we say of the telephone which makes neighbors of those living miles away? What can we say of the hundreds of discoveries and inventions which have come to light since God has restored the gospel with the priesthood which has the authority to administer in the ordinances of salvation?

This has been an age of the outpouring of God's Spirit upon "all nations." It has not been by chance, but it is as God foreordained it should be, as foreseen by the Prophet Joel.

In the year 1840, the streets of London were lit up with gas, and since that time nearly every city of importance in the world has been similarly illuminated: another evidence of the prophets foresight, and of God's pleasure in fulfilling the predictions of his servant. But the skeptic will ask—"What has this to do with Joseph Smith and his revelation?" and a very proper question, too, it is.

I fear I shall have to quote scripture again. "What doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" What benefit to the nations to gain such vast utilities, if they are to be damned ever afterwards? This whole proceeding is in perfect keeping with the teachings of our Lord and Savior: "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven and his righteousness, and all these things" (worldly comforts) "shall be added unto you."

The Almighty commenced the great "outpouring of his Spirit," by first teaching man the way of life. After calling a prophet in spiritual things, he then inspired other good men, each in his special calling. There are prophets endowed with many and varied gifts, but all by the same Spirit.

Do you believe that the prophet Joel was inspired? Do you not see that there is a higher intelligence than that possessed by man? —an undying intelligence that knows all, sees all, and cares for all? Now please excuse me one minute: If the prophet Joel was inspired, may not some of the other prophets have been inspired? And why not our great nineteenth century prophet, Joseph Smith?

The next thing that happened was that I was standing on the floor and talking away, as fast as my tongue could wag. There was no volition in my rising. It seemed as though someone lifted me off my seat, and stood me on my feet.

Document 25 1904 – *The Passing of the Gifts of Tongues*

Author: James X Allen
Date: December 1904
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: L.D.S. Publication
Source: *The Improvement Era*, Vol. 8, pages 109-111

Editor's Introduction:

In 1904, at age 73, James published two articles in the LDS publication *Improvement Era*, an organ of the *Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association*.

Passing of the Gifts of Tongues, is of interest for the autobiographical anecdotes it contains, including the witnessing when he was only 11 years of age in 1842 the American Mormon missionary Lorenzo Barnes speaking in tongues. He recounts the acute embarrassment he felt after he acceded to the taunts of some beer drinker to dance a jig in a bar.

Selected quotes:

I was about twelve years of age, and living seven miles from the meetinghouse to which I walk every Sunday

Great drops of sweat stood on my face, and I was thoroughly miserable

"I declared that I could not dance, when the man said: "You lying little rascal! I've seen you dance many time."

The Passing of the Gifts of Tongues

James X Allen

I was somewhat startled a few days ago, while in conversation with a young brother who had just returned from a mission to Scandinavia, by hearing him remark that he had never in his life heard anyone speak in tongues. This same young brother was reared in Utah. His father and mother, as also he himself, are good latter-day Saints. He has filled and honorable mission, and is today's strong in the faith, and yet, he has never heard and experienced one of the most common gifts of the Gospel, as enjoyed years ago.

The remark was somewhat of a shock to me; because in the early days of the church - where I was reared - there were so many of the saints who enjoyed the gifts, and there were none among my acquaintances who had not heard the sweet sound of the gift of tongues. Many times there would be both speaking and singing in tongues, in the same sacrament meeting. The interpretation of tongues was equally as common as the tongues themselves. In fact, we were wont to regard this speaking in times, the interpretation of tongues, the relating of dreams and prophesying, as an essential part of the latter-day gospel. These gifts were a great comfort to the new converts. They strengthened our faith and served as abiding testimonies to many of us. Sometimes we were taken aback a little by them, as I have on several occasions seen parties to confess faults in their tongues that they were ashamed to confess openly in their natural tongue.

One remarkable case of the kind occurred with myself. At the time, I was about twelve years of age, and living seven miles from the meeting house to which I walk every Sunday. My [p 110] custom was to be at the meeting at 10 o'clock in the morning. Some brother would ask me home to dinner. The afternoon meetings were sacrament and testimony meetings. I would, after this meeting, go with some brother to tea - the evening meal being called by that name; and after night meeting I would walk home.

On this special occasion, I refrained from partaking of the sacrament, as also from bearing my testimony, as was my habit. During the meeting, I sat in misery. I felt that I had sinned, but thought as no one present was cognizant of my fault, I considered it useless to enlighten them as to my fall from grace. However, while sitting quietly at the back of the hall, my body began to swell, so that I feared for the buttons on my clothes. Great drops of sweat stood on my face, and I was thoroughly miserable. The next thing that happened was that I was standing on the floor and talking away, as fast as my tongue could wag. There was no volition in my rising. It seemed as though someone lifted me off my seat, and stood me on my feet. I tried not to talk, but I could not, until the power upon me let me stop. I did not know what I was saying, as the language was strange to me. When through with the tongue; I sat down exhausted.

But now came another trouble. It was the custom, when anyone spake in tongues, that some brother or sister would arise and give the interpretation, but in this case no interpretation was given.

After the close of the meeting, a brother asked me to go home to tea with him. On the way to his house, he asked me: Did I know the reason why my tongue was not interpreted? No! He said that I have been dancing. Yes! I had been dancing in the public house? Yes! Fact, I had made a full and contrite confession, and begged the forgiveness of the Saints, promising never to do the like again.

He told me that three of the brethren sitting together each had the interpretation, and each had the same interpretation; and the question was, who should arise and give it? No one of them was willing to give it at the meeting. They argued that I was so truly repentant and humble that they thought my punishment was enough. They argued that one of them should take me home to tea and talk to me.

At that time I had a companion some years older than myself [p 111] who is a great clog dancer. I became infatuated with the dancing. But my dancing would be done

on the sidewalk, while Harry would occasionally step into a public house (saloon) and dance for money. I was too pious to dance for money, but not too pious to take a full share what Harry earned. On the occasion of my fall from grace, Harry remained in the public house so long that I got tired of waiting for him, and stepped in to see if he was not coming. When I got in, Harry was just coming off the floor, and one of the beer drinkers remarked: "Here's a little devil that can dance; get on the floor and give us a step." I declared that I could not dance, when the man said: "You lying little rascal! I've seen you dance many time."

I was about to turn around and leave the house, when Harry looked at me as much just to say, "Now, Jim, thou gets half." The reproof in his eyes was too much for me, and I danced. But, oh! How wretched I was all that week! I never danced in such a place again.

This was a testimony that is never left me, of the power and discernment of the Spirit of God. Many times when assailed by doubts - who has not been so assailed? - the recollection that circumstance has come to my aid, and I thank God for never-dying testimony.

The first person that I ever heard speak in times was Lorenzo D Barnes, in the year 1842. He died the same year, in England - one of the first, it's not the first, American elders to die in a foreign country.

I fear that I have made this narrative too long. But I could read relate other interesting incidents with regarding the blessed gifts of the Gospel. But I fear to be troublesome.

There is a question that comes to my mind: If men now think they can get along without the gifts of the Gospel, may not the time come when they may believe they can get along without it's ordinances?

About the genealogy, I have had an expert copy and arrange it in a "Family Record" - which is a very large book - and I enclose you the original as it came from England.

Document 26 Feb 1, 1905 Letter - J. X. Allen to S A Burgess

Author: James X Allen
Date: February 1, 1905
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Handwritten
Recipient: Samuel Allen Burgess
Photo No.: 2361
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

In July 1903, at the age of 25, Samuel Allen Burgess, grandson of James X Allen, travelled to Ogden Utah and according to his own account of events talked with 72-year old James Allen virtually non-stop for three days, stopping only to eat and sleep. Having established in this one intense session a bond that would remain strong until James died eight years later. Letters that survive from this remarkable exchange of letters are among no fewer than 20 such treasures that we have collected from the last decade of the life of James Allen.

We can infer from this 1905 letter that among the topics that James and Samuel discussed was the Mormon sacrament of baptism of the dead. James refers to his having engaged a professional genealogist to prepare an Allen family tree. (It would be wonderful to know what became of this work!)

One "revelation" from this letter is James's statement that he was not baptized until he was 2 years and 6 months of age. In Chapter 1 of *Saints Seekers Settlers and Spirits* is a 1833 baptism record and a question as whether it is the record of James's baptism given that he had been born in 1830. This letter implies the 1833 record is in fact a record of James Baptism. We know from Eveline Burgess's autobiography that James's father died when James was two years old. His father's name (John) appears on his baptism record but it is not known whether he was present for the baptism or whether baptism took place after his father's death.

Selected quote:

You see in getting baptized, married and C (sic) for the dead, you need have things pretty straight.

Ogden, Utah, February 1, 1905

My dear grand son,

Although I am slow about answering still, I can assure you that I was pleased to receive your kind letter.

About the genealogy, I have had an expert copy and arrange it in a "Family Record" - which is a very large book - and I enclose you the original as it came from England. It bothers one to understand it. It tells when certain persons were Christened but it does not say how old they were. Many children are Christened at 1 month - I was Christened at 2 yrs and 6 months, so that we do not know the date of birth. It tells us when married but not the ages. It tells when buried but no age - making award (?) to trace out a life.

We have a great many Allens in this country, and I find that they have a book of genealogies, printed in the East -but it is in no better shape than mine and is of no use to me, as the parties are all born in America.

I said that I had an expert to work on it, but in going over his work, it seems to me that he has guessed at things just as I myself might have done. You see in getting baptized, married and C for the dead, you need have things pretty straight. Well I have done all

(Page 2)

money and patience could do, and it has to go as it is. When you are through with the papers - no hurry - why please return them.

Remember me kindly to Florence and all the family. I should think a change, such as you speak, of is good for your father-but it must be better when mother is along too.

We are all well - well, Reed does a little of something (?) but we cannot get him to bed before 11 PM and he needs more rest but has not sense enough to see it.

Beatrice says "Hello! "

Ern and Clara are alright and the baby (wonderful) has a tooth through and another sprouting.

We are having lots of wet weather but no snow.

Be good to yourself and write when you get ready to

Grandpa

P.S. The Allens are my fathers folks in the Bedfords my fathers (sic) folks. J

“You are right about education. The sound body should be first, then pile on all you can...”

Document 27 May 31, 1906 Letter - J. X. Allen to S A Burgess

Author: James X Allen
Date: May 31, 1906
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Recipient: Samuel Allen Burgess
Photo No.: 2376
Source: Archives Unprocessed Burgess boxes

Editor's Introduction:

This letter is the first to contain references to family members that have come into the picture during the 25 year gap in surviving correspondence between 1880 and 1905. Therefore, a summary of James's "second family" is perhaps in order.

Julia bore James a daughter Beatrice in 1882. She would have been 24 years old in 1906 when this letter was written. According to the 1910 US Census, it was sometime in 1906 that she married Horace Carpenter (More about Horace later.) As he is unmentioned, Beatrice may have been single and when this letter was written.

Julia Clarissa Allen was born in 1884 and would have been 21 in May 1906. She was named for her mother but went by her middle name - Claire. About two years before this letter, she had married Earnest Stone, referred to simply as "Ern" in this letter. They had a daughter Katherine in November 1905 who was teething by May.

Also mentioned is Samuels' brother Harold who in 1906 went to Bliss College in Washington, D.C. to study electricity. He graduated in 1907 at the top of his class.

Finally, James talks about the importance to him of his good name. Julia had born him a son James Reed in 1887 who was only 9 years old when this letter was sent. Unfortunately James died a year later the age of 20, never having born children.

James would be happy to know that his son Franklin's son Ralph would have a son Ralph Henry (b. 1918) who would have a son Anthony Jonathon Allen (b. 1939 in Abilene, TX). Tony J. Allen is a city councilman in Granbury, TX near Abilene, TX.

Selected quote:

I am pleased to learn that Frank is looking after his son. A good deal depends upon Ralph. I am concerned about my name. I don't want it to die out nor sink into insignificance.

Ogden, Utah, May 31, 1906

My dear grandson,

Always really pleased to hear from you. You always say something when you write. Glad that you like my "common sense". There was room for amplification but the boys do not read long articles, that is, unless the article is very interesting, which I am not expected to be. I sent you this number because it contains "Light varieties (?) of." This article is too much contracted for an educated man to enjoy. But the last few lines tell what I wanted the boys to see to. And I trust they will take the suggestion.

It is a great thing to be "Grand ma (?) " and "Uncle Sammy "is good. God bless the baby! Hope Harold will make a good thing of his electricity. Ern (?) is working in the telephone office and taking a correspondence course. But he says - "it is not the best posted men who get the best pay - it is the practical businessman who gets the cash." Claire and Ern send love "And tell him - the baby has two teeth."

You are right about education. The sound body should be first, then pile on all you can with engering (?) the Constitution. Glad that you are well again.

Also pleased to know that you had a good time at your Dedication.

I am pleased to learn that Frank is looking after his son. A good deal depends upon Ralph. I am concerned about my name. I don't want it to die out nor sink into insignificance. Frank may have more sons, and Reed may come out alright; but Ralph is here! And I wish him to be somebody.

Beatrice is playing piano for Theater. Frank [is] studying and working in the drugstore. I am well and thankful that I am alive. I need to live as long as I can.

Write when you have time to ... Grandpa

Thank god for Sybil! A cheerful face and a merry disposition are a vivifying sunshine that lightens up all the corners of the dwelling, making a heaven here below.

Document 28 Sept 6, 1906 Letter - J. X. Allen to S R Burgess

Author: James X Allen
Date: September 6, 1906
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Recipient: Samuel Rostron Burgess
Photo Nos.: 2377-2378
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

This delightfully upbeat letter to his son-in-law Samuel Rostron Burgess reveals how fully up-to-date James has become with his "first family".

Its references to "*Era*" are to the LDS publication *The Improvement Era* published in 1904. James wrote articles for *Era*; one was a 5000 word tour de-force in which he laid out a scientific case for their being a divine source for human intelligence.

James reacts to news he had received from Samuel about his sons Harold and Arthur and wife Eveline. In June the family moved from their home of nearly 15 years on Harper Street to Eveline's dream house on 5920 Etzel Avenue in St Louis.

James expresses his joy for the high spirits of Samuel's daughter Sybil and concern for the low spirits of his daughter Florence. He sends his greetings to Samuel's sisters – Alice Burgess Molyneaux and Martha Burgess.

He ends the letter on kind of a downer as he talks about his son Frank's two children – Budge (17) and Ralph (14). It appears from context that son Frank and family are in Ogden. He bemoans Ralph's dishonesty and lack of initiative.

Selected quotes:

Thank god, we do not have to wait for death to pass us on to heaven - we can and do have a heaven here when we feel and do what the divine spirit inspires us to do.

The boy never speaks the truth. ... Never did a ... thing ... He seems to be imbecile.

Mother is taken up with her new house. She ought to be. ... She has a noble man for her mate. She has children that are above the average in intellect and virtue. What more could one ask an all-wise maker, in this life?

J.X. ALLEN, M.D./365 23D STREET/TELEPHONE 213K

Ogden, Utah, Sept 6, 1906

My dear Sammy, I was, as I always am, pleased to get your letter. But I had a time trying to make out what you were saying. The little woman helped me some and then Frank cleaned the thing up. Write again and we will do our level best to translate it into English.

We all should have been very much pleased to see you out here. Hope you will make a success of it (?) next year. Glad to know that you got the book alright.

I only send you the numbers of the "Era" that have my articles in them. By the bye, I get lots of flattery from abroad. The Elders in the field seem to enjoy them very much. I got a long and flattering letter this morning from Apostle Grant of the British Mission praising my contributions very much.

The baby now has 4 teeth and is expecting more anon.

Of course Arthur's baby is a great institution. I can readily understand how much you all are taken up with it. I should like to see it and give a good boost.

I think that Harold is alright and that he is his father's own boy. And that is saying a good deal for the boy. Very much pleased to learn that the father is improving in health and is taking things more easily than of yore.

"Mother is taken up with her new house." She ought to be. The great father has been extremely (?) good to her. She has a [page 2] noble man for her mate. She has children that are above the average in intellect and virtue. What more could one ask an all-wise maker, in this life?

I am still hoping that Florence will come out first-class, yet.

Thank god for Sybil! A cheerful face and a merry disposition are a vivifying sunshine that lightens up all the corners of the dwelling, making a heaven here below. Thank god, we do not have to wait for death to pass us on to heaven - we can and do have a heaven here when we feel and do what the divine spirit inspires us to do.

Love and good wishes for Alice and Martha.

Pleased to know that Budge has taken to work. It is more than Ralph has done. He has been here 2 months but not a lick would he strike. Work is plentiful in the Canary (?) factories. He left yesterday for the East. I wonder if he will be back in a day or two? He has started before but - "The cat came back." The boy never speaks the truth. And yet he never told a wicked lie. Never did a good or bad thing while here. He seems to be imbecile. I have had him here and treated him well; but I am discouraged. I am willing to feed him, but he does worry me one by line incessantly.

Love to all.

J. X. A.

(I got mother's letter and let [her] read this. J.X.A.)

I hear that your grandma is quite a preacher. Frank told me quite a story about her great speech to the Sabbath School and the many complements she received for same.

Document 29 June 20, 1908 Letter - J. X. Allen to S A Burgess

Author: James X Allen
Date: June 20, 1908
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Recipient: Samuel Allen Burgess
Photo No.: 2375
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

James has turned 70 years old by June 1908 and his children by his third wife Julia are leaving him. Daughters Beatrice and Clara have married²³ and moved away. His son James Reed had died a year²⁴ before in June 1907. His youngest daughter Veda is all that keeps James from being an empty nester and she is now a teenager.

This letter has a reference to James's first wife Betsey, whom he refers to as "Grandma". Elizabeth in 1908 had herself remarried James Anderson and, after living for about 10 years in Kansas City, had returned to Iowa to live in a cottage behind the house (and on the same lot) as her daughter Dr. Bertha Greer.

James mentions Samuel's sister Florence in this letter as well as others. Approaching her 30th birthday by June 1908, Florence had had been a brilliant student (high school valedictorian), astonishing writer, and regular organist at the RLDS church in St Louis. For about ten years, however, she had not been well. The nature and cause of her illness remains a mystery. For a time (1909 to 1911) she lived for months at a time at a sanitarium outside of Denver. She never married and died in her early 40's.

Selected quotes:

I am pleased to get a note from any of the family

Don't you know, as one gets older, one gets to feel somewhat lonesome and sometimes worse than that - to feel neglected.

²³ Beatrice married Horace Carpenter - an American actor, director and screenwriter who appeared in 334 films between 1914 and 1946. He directed 15 films between 1925 and 1934. Clara had married Ernest Stone in 1904 and had moved to Wyoming. They later moved to Montana.

²⁴ James "Reed" Allen had been struck by streetcar in 1905 and died two years later. He was 20 and engaged to be married and about to head east to medical school when he died in Ogden upon returning home from a carriage ride with his fiancée.

Ogden, Utah, June 20, 1908

My dear grandson,

Pleased to hear from you. I am pleased to get a note from any of the family.

Don't you know, as one gets older, one gets to feel somewhat lonesome and sometimes worse than that - to feel neglected.

Well, as you say - Clara and Ernest are not in Ogden and we miss them very much. Ern is very good company, in fact he is a live man.

"Great Truths." I read this work and was so much taken up with [it] that I sent money for twenty. So far I have learned of only 3 being delivered. I wrote a week (?) since to England to find out what has become of the rest.

We shall be glad to see both of you and your sister - Bright eyes. Sorry to know that your father is out of sorts. Hope he is better by this time.

I hear that your grandma is quite a preacher. Frank told me quite a story about her great speech to the Sabbath School and the many complements she received for same.

Pleased to know that the whole family get along alright.

Ms (?) should have appreciated an account of Florence's improvement.

We are all well.

Love to everybody from

Grandfather

I am proud of my father. I would not trade him for any father I ever saw ... but... I owe all my training and manners and the finer points of life ... to mother. Father is a man every inch. In qualities of honor, intelligence, intellect, and as a self-made man I put him at the top. But ... he makes me think sometimes that he likes to torture.

Document 30 Dec 21, 1908 Letter - Frank Allen to B Greer

Author: Franklin X Allen
Date: December 21, 1908
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Recipient: Dr. Bertha Greer
Photo Nos.: 2536-2539
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

In December 1908 James Allen's youngest child Franklin - his only surviving son by his first marriage to Betsey Pidd - would have been 42 years old. He was in his second marriage, now in its ninth year, to Alma Mae Porter. Frank and Alma never had children of their own, but still living were Franklin's two children by his wife Mary - Budge and Ralph.

Franklin was a piano salesman in Ogden from about 1903 until 1908, and so he was *probably* still living in Ogden when this letter was written - *probably* because his death certificate states he had lived in Del Rio, Texas from April 1906 until 1937.

Franklin so admired his father that he changed his middle name from Henry to "X". When his son Ralph was born, he gave him the middle initial "X", too. Yet Franklin was also well aware of his father's imperfections, as this letter December 1908 letter written to his sister Bertha attests. Franklin describes their father's deteriorating health and shares perspectives about his father, his finances, and his second family.

Selected quote:

Father has brought two families in the world. One had a mother to raise them. You don't need a microscope to detect the difference. And yet it is not a matter goodness. This woman is good. It takes more than goodness to make life worth living. I think mother may be proud of the job she did raising her children. You may think the boy don't amount to much, but stop and think what the same boy might have been without Mother and then you get at the facts.

Ogden Utah December 21, 1908

Dear sister Bertha:

Yours of December 18 received. Finds us all well and kicking. I cashed the order and gave it to Mrs. A[llen] to get a dress for Veda. That is I gave it to Alma to give her and all mine has just gone with it.

Now I have been looking over the ground carefully and think I am competent to make a report. Believe this will describe the case.

First father had a time with his teeth and lost the last one that met another one and of course stood the toothache as long as he could be for parking with his last chewer. Then he had a little trouble with his back. Probably got uncovered in the night, but that did not alter the fact that for the first time in his life he had a lame back. Taxes came on and he did not know how to get them, but finally went out collecting and raise the necessary. Well he got blue and made considerable fuss. Concluded he was going to the Bow wows and we could not talk him out of it. So he gave up this evening beer. And gave up most every thing. As a matter of fact I think they are not badly fixed.

It is true that they are not meeting expenses but it is by a narrow margin and I think this season of the year is that way with other people. I know the people who owe me put me off and don't pay. But I suppose on an average he may lack ten to fifteen dollars a month of breaking even.

Now for the other side. I know that Mrs. A[llen] has money out at interest. She has a thousand in the bank practically idle. I think I am safe in saying they are worth at least \$8000. Cash and property. The lady hangs onto hers and so we have to see to it that he gets his luxuries and I think that is all.

Veda needs clothes badly. You know how father is and always was. He don't think girls need anything and should earn their own. They do not make life one continuous run pleasure for Veda. I have trouble enough myself, but

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I would not near trade places with Veda. She has not been raised. She has just grown up. Remember I considered Veda's mother one of the best of women but she does not know how to raise children. Father never did know. I am proud of my father. I would not trade him for any father I ever saw. Am glad I made so wise A choice but I admitt (sic) to myself and now to another for the first time that I consider I owe ALL my training and manners and the finer points of life (if I have any) and I think I have. TO MOTHER. Father is a man every inch. In qualities of honor, intelligence, intellect and as a self-made man I put him at the top. But he has none of the Cherterfield in him. He makes me think sometimes that he likes to torture. Not long ago he told Alma and I that on his last trip no one did anything for him but Syb.

Everyplace else he was miserable and unwelcome. A short time ago he told us that no one ever did a thing for him but Bertha. Bertha would do this and that, and really did things, but no one else ever turned a hand, or cared if he lived or not.

Now I know he speaks well of me. I know you like to have me here. I have seen out the corner of his eye when he introduced me to someone and could see that he thought I was something to be proud of. But if he ever say anything to me it is a criticism. A few days ago he came over here and put up a 10 minute speech about the playing Veda had done on the piano just before he left home. She pleased him the best of any one he had ever listened to.

After he was winded I asked him what Veda said when he told her about it. Well you know how he looked. "I never told Veda about it." I said no you sneaked off and did not pay for your entertainment. Now what would you think of a man who sneaked under the tent to the circus and did not pay his way?

Now I will try to see to it that you know if he needs anything that I am not able to get for him. But aside from a few luxuries such as beer or the like I believe he's all right.

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Now about Stone writing to Eveline. You can forget all about it. Stone is not what I would like to have in the family. He is now trying to borrow the money from Mrs. A[llen] to build a house in Wyoming. She will be out what she lets him have. And she will probably let him have the thousand dollars.

We can't help that. Stone puts up a fancy talk and never pays anything he can get out of. He owes bills all over that I know, and he is a chronic gambler. Not alone on races and ball games and elections, but is a poker fiend with and without the brains to win. I do not feel like putting any more in his way than I have to. While we are keeping up the expenses he will work off the surplus if he gets a chance. Forget that thing called Stone lives.

Now you may quit worrying about this case. Now I will try to see what is needed and let you know when I can supply myself. I think if you send five a month they will make it all right. If he gets ten a month I am quite sure he will break even with what he has coming in.

Of course you will read and burn this letter. I make it a rule to put nothing on paper that I am afraid of and the only one I would not want to see would be Father. As for Stone he knows my opinion of him. And this don't half express it. I wrote him some time ago and asked him not to borrow the money from his mother in law. He wrote me a letter that was worse than unmailable. If I should hand it to the Postal authorities he would go up for years. I read only one page of the six and put it away for safe keeping.

I would like to befriend the Mrs. as she has always been good to me, but it is her family and if she chooses the beggar herself I don't see that we are to blame. I know this. I regard her as having been good Father. That is the way I look at the Colonel. I do not like him very much, but I say to myself he is good to Mother. He is her friend. Then he must be my friend. I never expect to the Colonel or Mrs. J. X. in want if I can help it.

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Now to finish this. We are all well at present. Money is not plenty with any of us for you but we are not any of us in want and while money is scarce I am getting ahead and while Father is getting a little behind, it is not enough to be at worry to any of us that I can see you.

Alma is trouble because she cannot send as many Christmas presents as she would like, I guess she will live through it.

It is cold here at plenty of snow.

Alma is shopping today and trying to buy 20 presents worth \$5.00 each for us as many people with \$1.75. Don't know how she will come out.

Well I think if you can look after Mother I will be able to keep Father on top. He has some queer notions of late. Has not smoked for two weeks. Says he feels better, but he don't act it. He is said to be some like a bear with a sorehead. He would not drink his evening beer last night said it was too cold. He has worn woolen underwear winter and summer for years and just bought and put on cotton as he can not afford wool. These are a few of the foolish things but I suppose he is arriving at the foolish age.

Well I'm always thankful that I have an honest and intelligent father, but I nonetheless thankful that I've a sensible intelligent mother. And none the less honest either. So will give Father full credit for his share, but my honest opinion is that we would have been a sorry lot without Mother.

Father has brought two families in the world. One had a mother to raise them. You don't need a microscope to detect the difference. And yet it is not a matter goodness. This woman is good. It takes more than goodness to make life worth living. I think mother may be proud of the job she did raising her children. You may think the boy don't amount to much, but stop and think what the same boy might have been without Mother and then you get at the facts.

Love to all and best wishes and Happy New Year's and so on.

From Bro. Frank and Alma

Am really glad that you...enjoyed your last year's trip. I do not see how you could do otherwise having so pleasant a traveling companion. If Miss Sybil is interested in geology, this western country must deeply interest her.

Document 31 June 12, 1909 Letter - J. X. Allen to S A Burgess

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: June 12, 1909
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Handwritten
Recipient: Samuel Allen Burgess
Photo No.: 2371
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

Between July and August of 2008, two of James' favorite grandchildren – Samuel Allen Burgess and his sister Sybilia Burgess – traveled westward from St Louis for the better part of three months, visiting relatives in Colorado and California and returning to St Louis by way of the Grand Canyon. It was a trip of a lifetime for them.

This short letter makes reference to his grandson Sammy's western trip and a touches on a few other topics. A passing referent to "Sybil's marriage" is confusing to me, since his granddaughter Sybilia did not announce her engagement to Gomer Evans for another two years and the only other Sybil in the family was his daughter Sybilia who in 1909 had been married over thirty years to Boner Zenor.

His grandson Ralph had enlisted in the Navy in 1906. James refers to a "manly letter" he had received from his grandson. I suspect he was glad to know his grandson was maturing in the Navy.

Selected quotes:

I was pleased with your mother's account of Ralph.

He wrote me a sensible and manly letter.

Is there not some disappointment connected with Sybil's marriage?

Love and kind regards to Father and Mother and we love them.

Ogden Utah June 12 1909

My dear Sam,

So pleased to get your kind letter. Began to think that you had got to ...(?) and was so deeply in love that all things not present were not in mind. Young folks when deeply in love seem to be absorbed – swallowed up, as it were, in the affection's object.

Am really glad that you so deeply enjoyed your last year's trip. I do not see how you could do otherwise having so pleasant a traveling companion. If Miss Sybil is interested in geology, this western country must deeply interest her. Ogden Canyon is a paradise for the student in nature. Wyoming - to the uninitiated - is a dreary state; but to the one who loves the mysteries of nature, it is all - absorbing.

So many relations and friends to meet, as you did, at the conference, must've been a very enjoyable time for you all.

I was pleased with your mother's account of Ralph. He wrote me a sensible and manly letter. Sorry that my granddaughter Florence is not enjoying life as much as one of her age and sex is supposed to do - remember me kindly to her - God bless her.

Is there not some disappointment connected with Sybil's marriage?

Love and kind regards to Father and Mother and we love them.

Grandpa

Ms Veda just graduated from 8th grade.

Bertha busy." She always is busy. She would be busy even if she had nothing to do. As soon she began to walk she began to work and she has been busy ever since. God bless "B".

Document 32 June 26, 1909 Letter - J. X. Allen to S A Burgess

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: June 26, 1909
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Handwritten
Recipient: Samuel Allen Burgess
Photo Nos.: 2367-2368
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

Written just two weeks after the previous document, this letter from James Allen is a response to a letter he obviously had received in the interim from his grandson. This letter is valuable in part for its autobiographical content. *The first school I attended was medical* he writes. From other sources we know that at age 6 he was working in a factory and that his first medical training in England. We also know he was living in Sheffield blocks away from its Medical School in the months that immediately proceeded his emigration in 1853, and so it may be the school.

The subject of Sybilia's marriage arises in this letter as it did in the previous letter; this letter makes clear that the Sybilia in question is my grandmother Sybilia Burgess who was 21 years old in June 1909 and who did not announce her engagement to Gomer Evans until two years later in 1911. The implication of this 1909 letter is that Sybilia was at least talking about possible marriage in 1909, presumably to Gomer who had been a family friend since about 1904. Who knows?

Grandson Samuel was 32 years old, still single and living with his parents in 1909. He apparently explained to his grandfather his bachelor status, prompting his much-married grandfather to share some opinions on the institution of marriage.

Selected quotes:

School taught you how to study to the best advantage ...

You have been highly favored and have not wasted your opportunities...

You owe much, very much to a noble and kind father

I think that less schooling and more thinking ... makes one more original

Ogden, Utah, June 26 - 9

My dear Sammy,

You certainly are a good letter writer - nearly as good as your Aunt "B" and I have thought her about the best correspondent that I have. What you have to say, you say it in a perfectly natural, straightforward way. You speak of learning more since leaving school than you did while there. Don't you think that that is the way with most students? But the school taught you how to study to the best advantage - how to differentiate, discriminate - how to compare and how to value. You have been highly favored and have not wasted your opportunities and your Grandfather is proud of you. You owe much, very much to a noble and kind father.

The very first school that I attended was a medical, where I was supposed to have an academical education. I began with grammar at the age of 11 years and in two years I had the book committed to memory. I never read any fiction that interested [me] anymore than did my first grammar. But, what am I talking about? I started out to answer your very interesting letter and here I am taking up time and paper talking about myself.

"Sybil wants to go to Yellowstone and to college." Of course she does! Syb knows a good thing as well as any us. But, as you know, she won't stop learning because she stops school. I much fear that too much schooling is not good. I think that less schooling and more thinking and waiting (?) makes one more original.

"Father enjoying his vacation." I am glad to hear it - he will live all the longer.

"Mother feeling better." Would not a little vacation improve mother? What do you think?

"Is there not some disappointment about Sybil's marriage?" When I read your last letter I thought you spoke as if that thing was as good as settled (?) that she would be married soon. I cast a figure for the time of reading your letter, and

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planets signifying marriage in opposition to each other, and, of course, I concluded that there was something wrong somewhere.

"Shall never marry to secure a housekeeper." This excerpt from your letters sounds all right, and I think that if the sentiment were more clearly adhered to that there would not be nearly so many imbeciles and criminals in the world as at present. I do not know what the percentage of mutual love marriages in the world is, but I am inclined to think that it is rather low. It is bedtime, and as there is no end to speculation in this most important and far-reaching question, perhaps I had best drop it on the threshold or I may find myself very sleepy in the morning.

"Bertha busy." She always is busy. She would be busy even if she had nothing to do. As soon she began to walk she began to work and she has been busy ever since. God bless "B".

Please to your mother that I have her very kind letter and I will write sometime in the future. / Love to everybody including the new and rising generation. / Grandpa

The power of thinking is the greatest gift of God to man - the pinnacle of evolution in mortality.

Document 33 Aug 3, 1909 Letter – J. X. Allen to S A Burgess

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: August 3, 1909
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Handwritten letter
Recipient: Samuel A Burgess
Photo No.: 2369-2370
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

That James remained in contact with his children by Betsey long after they divorced is evident again in this letter to his grandson Sammy as he reports that his son Franklin had visited recently with his wife. Franklin's son Ralph, whom James on several occasions expresses his concern, has enlisted in the Navy. Ralph would end up serving in the Navy until 1945. He would have a son Ralph Harold Allen (b. 1918) who in 1940 would be as a custodian for the Navy reserve in Kansas City, Mo.

James's oldest daughter Beatrice played piano and married a man who would become a prominent actor and director in Hollywood – Horace Carpenter.

Selected Quotes:

"Life is the biggest thing that I know anything about."

Ralph wrote me one letter ... I am glad that he entered the Navy. I think that the experience ... will have a strong tendency to make a man of him.

Writing is both slow and difficult so I will [say] goodbye and God bless you all

Ogden, Utah, Aug't. 3 - 9.

My dear Sammy,

So pleased to hear from you. Keep on thinking! I have often said that: "Life is the biggest thing that I know anything about." But I now make this claim (?):

"The power of thinking is the greatest gift of God to man - the pinnacle of evolution in mortality." There can be no thinking without life; but life without thought is mere vegetable life and soul-less.

A man today asked me the cause of stuttering? I showed him my right hand and told him that it was stuttering. He said that he had never heard of a hand stuttering but he could see that it was the same thing - a weakness in the nerve supply.

Ralph wrote me one letter since his return to duty. From the way he writes, I take it that he is comparatively [happy] (page 2) and contented where he is. I am glad that he entered the Navy. I think that the experience gained on the water and the discipline (...) will have a strong tendency to make a man of him.

Frank and wife were here during 8 or 10 days but have now gone to Yellowstone Park. They had a little money and could not rest quietly with it in pocket and so each of them got new clothes and started on a pleasure trip to empty their pockets. They were both well.

Beatrice is in Texas playing every night. They say that the weather is very hot down there. You say that you hear from Clara.

The rest of the folks are well. Love to father and mother into all the rest of the family. Writing is both slow and difficult so I will [say] goodbye and God bless you all.

Grandpa

Was very much grieved to learn of Alexander [Greer]'s death. I liked him.

Document 34 Sept 2, 1909 Letter – J. X. Allen to S A Burgess

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: September 2, 1909
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Recipient: Samuel A Burgess
Photo No.: 2372-2374
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

William Anderson was a respected member of the RLDS church in Lamoni. (His brother James was married to James's first wife Betsey and they lived in Lamoni.)

The reference to the death of *Alexander* is a bit of mystery. Bertha's husband Alexander lived until 1922 and Bertha bore him no children. Best guess is an Alexander Greer (1855-June 29, 1909), married to Hannah who lived in Sac, Iowa.

Bro. Joseph is a reference to Joseph Smith, III, the president of the RLDS church and a resident of Lamoni, Iowa until he moved to Independence, Missouri.

The GAR was the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization of men who served in the military. James Allen was active in the G.A.R. when he lived in Ogden.

Sybil was Sammy's younger sister and my grandmother. Sammy's Aunt Martha was a reference to Sammy's father's sister Martha Burgess, who never married – a fate James did not want for his granddaughter Sybil.

Arthur was one of Sammy's younger brothers, Florence the older of his two younger sisters. Florence suffered from an undiagnosed malady the last 25 years of her life.

Lizzie Slater was Sammy's grandfather Peter Burgess's daughter by his first wife, Ann Margaret Esplin. Lizzie married Thomas Slater in St Louis and moved to Weber County Utah in 1864 where she had 7 children who grew to maturity.

Selected Quotes:

Even my shoes were sopping wet with sweat. Had to change everything.

It is too bad that Bro. Joseph [Smith] is breaking down. All know him must like him.

"Mother well, but too busy." She is built that way. And cannot help it.

Ogden, Sept. 2/09

My dear grandson,

Your letter came to hand all right and I was pleased to get it. I can well remember when it would have taken nearly a month or a letter to reach this part of the world from St. Louis. Now it comes as fast as the wind usually travels.

I was really glad to have Wm Anderson and wife walk into the office. But, although Bertha has notified me he was coming, I had forgotten all about him and I did not know him. He came in I thought he was a customer. He grinned and said, "Don't you know me?" I told him that I had seen his face before – some where in some when, but I could not place. Then he laughed and I caught on. Then we both had a good laugh. He was too late for the big parade. I accompanied him and wife to the Mound Font (?) meeting house and listened to his sermon on Sunday morning and all three of us attended Tabernacle service in the afternoon. He intended to go up the canyon on Monday, but his wife took sick and they returned to S. L. City on Sunday evening. I accompanied them to the train.

The GAR great was a grand sight. The little (Page 2) woman went to the city on Monday morning and return home on Saturday night. She is a national grand officer. I went down on Wednesday morning - was marching 4 hours and return home the same day - time tired out; had to hang my clothes on the line to dry. Even my shoes were sopping wet with sweat. Had to change everything.

Was very much grieved to learn of Alexander's death. I liked him. He was quite affable with me. When I visited Bertha he looked so much like his father's picture that I could not help liking him.

It is too bad that Bro. Joseph is breaking down. All know him must like him.

Clara and children had just returned home after a 10 days visit.

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You say:" Father has earned rest and is feeling much better for the same". Well, if he has not earned a rest, I do not know anyone has. God bless him. It is said that God makes all men; but if he does he turns out a very many poor jobs. But I really do believe that God Almighty made Samuel R. Burgess.

" Mother well, but too busy." She is built that way. And cannot help it. It is near six weeks since I heard from her, and I am very glad that she is well. I have not heard from Bertha and am growing uneasy. She was in (page 3) Texas when I last heard from her, and it is so hot out there and I fear she is sick. I can tell you that it hurts when any of the family is out of sorts.

"Sybil is lots of company." Well, I should think that she would be. The wonder is that some bright young fellow does not carry her off. Her bright twinkling eyes would be good company for any sensible fellow. Aunt Martha has made a mistake; let us hope that this Sybil you will not follow in her footsteps.

"Arthur seems to be alright." Well, thank God for that, at least, one in the family is all right. I am still of the opinion that Florence should give the Christian Science a trial. Miss Hadley, whom I have known almost from childhood, is about the same age, size, complexion, temperament, and disposition as Florence; she, after attending the sect, became an entire new women and is now quite an artist and never a grunt is heard from her.

The widow - Lizzie Slater, wishes to have the name and address of some relatives in California. She thinks that she may visit out there this fall.

Excuse a long letter. I have little else to do but write.

Love to all.

Grandpa

There never will come a time when you not hunger for the presence of your children. We want to have our offspring near us all the time.

Document 35 Mar 25, 1911 Letter – J. X. Allen to SR & E Burgess

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: March 25, 1911
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Handwritten letter
Recipient: Samuel R Burgess and Eveline Burgess
Source: Evans Family Files

Editor's Introduction:

This letter is the only James X Allen letter in this collection NOT obtained from the Community of Christ archives. It is in the Evans Family files. He wrote it in response to a letter he had received from Eveline and/or Samuel Burgess in which they had informed him of the death of William Anderson and the engagement announcement of James's granddaughter (and their daughter) to Gomer Evans. Sybilia and Gomer would wed on September 12, 1912 and have four children – Alice Evans, Joseph Cedric Evans, Samuel Rostron Evans, and Walter Richard Evans.

The reference to Sammy opening an office in his Aunt Bertha's house in Lamoni would be a law office, as Sammy was a lawyer. About two years later he would accept the position of Graceland College in Lamoni.

Selected Quotes:

Sybilia going to be married. The most natural thing in the world.

Florence coming home... hope that some good man will carry her off some fine day

Nobody wants a trembling old man.

Ogden, Utah, March 25-11

Sam and Eveline,

Yours of the 17th came to hand all right, and I was so very glad to hear from you, and that you are all in good health. Yes, Wm Anderson's death was quit a shock. I thought all the world of him, and should I ever see Lamoni again, it would seem the same City to me. I wonder how sister Anderson is getting along without him.

Sybilia going to be married. The most natural thing in the world. She will 23 in June while you were not 20 when you & Sam were married. She is a good girl. She has Jupiter (+) in the mid-heaven when born & is sure to be honored in her life. I think her life will be a happy one. The man who gets her is in luck.

You will feel lost without her, of Course you will. There never will come a time when you not hunger for the presence of your children. We want to have our off-spring near us all the time. God bless the girl!

Florence coming home. That will soften the blow a little. But let us hope that some good man will carry her off some fine day-& then you will trust some more-still I pray that such a thing will happen.

I seen in the Chronicle that Sammy has opened an office in "Aunt Bertha's house & has work on hand." Glad to learn that he is well.

I am well. Both my hands are trembling & I cant hide it, & nobody wants a trembling old man. I eat well, sleep well & feel well. I do a little work – not much. Love to the children from

Father

Mind you I never growl. I think after the Lord being so good to me for so many years, it would be ingratitude to murmur now.

Document 36 Oct 23, 1911 Letter – J. X. Allen to Children

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: October 23, 1911
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Typewritten letter
Recipient: Dr. Bertha Greer and Sybilia Zenor
Photo No.: 2540
Source: Archives, Burgess Family Unprocessed Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

This letter, the first of several written by James Allen in the last two months of his life, is the first that dwells upon his deteriorating health brought on by heart disease. By 1911, his daughter Sybilia was a widow and had recently moved from Nebraska to Lamoni, Iowa to care for her aging mother – James's first wife Betsey – who lived in a cottage behind her daughter Bertha's house. This accounts for why James addressed the letter "Dear Children" – two daughters shared the same house address in Lamoni.

Veda Allen was James's youngest daughter. In 1911 she would have only been about 17 years old. The letter implies that James had sent her to an academy (a Music academy, perhaps?) Her sister Beatrice and brother-in-law Horace Carpenter were in the entertainment business. Perhaps Veda dropped out to work with them?

Selected Quotes:

The angina has bothered me so much that I could not do anything at all

I could not leave the house the rest of the day - it was awful.

Spells are growing worse and closer together. When a spell is on, I try chloroform

Ogden, Utah, October 23-11.

My dear children,

Your very kind letter came to hand all right and I should have answered it sooner but the angina has bothered me so much that I could not do anything at all.

This morning, I felt so much better than I got up and made a fire. Directly I had done so, I was taken with such a severe pain which lasted for 2 hours that I almost concluded that I would never try to do anything more but just lie abed and read.

Twice last week I was awakened in the night with the most excruciating pain smothering, which lasted each time from 2 to 3 hours. Julia had to get up and make a fire and get me first one thing and then another all seemingly to no purpose.

Yesterday morning I got up, made a fire and swept the leaves off the lawn. Would you believe it, it used me up so badly that I could not leave the house the rest of the day - it was awful.

I am now trying 1.6 oz of a grain of strychnine with 1.4 gm codeine 3 times a day and 2 of your little tonics after each meal. I do not see that anything does any good as the spells are growing worse and closer together. When a spell is on, I try chloroform, but that will not stop it under an hour.

Mind you I never growl. I think after the Lord being so good to me for so many years, it would be ingratitude to murmur now.

My, but ain't I doing a doing a lot of talking about myself.

Pleased to learn that Mother is getting along so much better. I'm really glad that you have Sybilia with you. I think she is very fortunate in having a good son and a live man for a son-in-law with a mother and sister close by. Not but she deserves to have all the good things that God is pleased to give to her.

I see that Alex is with you so that you are in good company.

Glad to know that Sammy is with you a good deal of the time. Samuel Burgess is a good deal like me, he feels best when busy. As to picture shows, it is seldom that I can walk that far without bringing on a spell, so I so not try it very often.

As to Veda, I have not seen her for a long time. She started out with Horace, when Beatrice was sick and has not been home since. As far as I can learn, she's growing more fleshy and enjoying real good health and spirits. She has only been 2 years at the Academy and I wanted her to go the full 4 years, but it seems that Horace is not doing any too well, and Veda is a great help them, as she can lead the orchestra when there is no regular band in the place where they may be playing; then again, she can sell or take tickets and is a very useful body to have around.

I fear that I am imposing upon you in writing so long letter when you have so little time to read it.

Julia is well and sends kind regards

Kindest regards to all who care to inquire after / Father

Thought I would write and let you know about your father. He has had a number of bad spells but last night he had the worst spell of all.

Document 37 Nov 11, 1911 Letter - Julia Allen to Bertha Greer

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: November 11, 1911
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Handwritten letter
Recipient: Samuel A Burgess
Photo Nos.: 2521-2524
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

This letter is the only surviving letter written in the hand of James Allen's third wife Julia Allen. The tone, handwriting, and content all speak well of her. The main focus of her letter is the deteriorating health of James. It suggests that his daughter Bertha, a doctor herself, is advising Julia of treatments she might try.

The return home of Julia and James's daughters Veda and Beatrice is perhaps evidence of a recognition that James did not have long to live. It is hard to know. Julia was concerned enough to notify her step-son Franklin of his father's condition.

Selected Quotes:

Was up all night with him and the pain seemed excruciating at times.

I gave him warm drinks and applied hot salt in sacks.

We have been having beautiful weather here until today and it is quite cloudy.

Ogden City Ut

11-7-11

Dr. Bertha A. Greer:
Lamoni, Iowa .

Dear Friend:

Thought I would write and let you know about your father. He has had a number of bad spells but last night he had the worst spell of all.

I was up all night with him and the pain seemed excruciating at times. I gave him warm drinks and applied hot salt in sacks.

He told me to give him codeine (Page 2) grain. Two at a dose and a teaspoonful of nervine. Did not seem to get any relief.

Then he said to give him 20 minum doses of chloroform in water, but I felt a little afraid to give him so much. So gave him 10 minums for a dose. After giving him 60 minums he kept asking for more. (That did not help him.) I refused to give him any more. I thought he might get an overdose. He seems to have so much gas during the spells and complains of both his arms aching. He does not know where to put them. He is taking those little tonic pills (Page 3) you sent to him.

If you can suggest anything else or prescribe any remedy I will be glad to follow your advice.

Beatrice, Veda, and Horace came home last week. They are all well and send love to all.

I do not know what I would have done last night if I had been alone. He is feeling some easier this a.m., but groans and moans all the time. He is up and dressed.

I have written to Abilene Texas and told Frank of his condition. If he does not get any better or (Page 4) should he get any worse I will write and let you know.

We have been having beautiful weather here until today and it is quite cloudy. Just commenced to snow. Hoping this finds you well. I will close for this time.

I am sincerely

Your Friend

Mrs. J. X. Allen

I am pretty much the same as I have been - nervous and cranky. I suspect that I am not very good company for those around me.

Document 38 Nov 14, 1911 Letter – J. X. Allen to S A Burgess

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: November 14, 1911
Written In: Ogden
Type: Typewritten Letter
Recipient: Samuel Allen Burgess
Photo No.: 2364
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

This letter, written by James just a week after the letter his wife Julia had sent to his daughter Bertha, is surprisingly for its humor from a man only six weeks from the grave. He refers to his grandson Boner Zenor, who would have been about 19 years old when the letter was written. Shortly after this letter, Boner married Catharine Cinch and moved to Montana. They would have three children – the youngest, Althea, was born in 1920 and alive as of this writing.

Selected quotes:

I am always pleased to get a letter from my first grandchild.

I cannot say that I go much on the Oto (sic). Have had a few rides in them but they are a little too fast for me.

Neuralgia of the heart is not a thing to be hankered after it is nothing more nor less than a toothache in the heart.

OGDEN, UT. NOV. 14 - 11

My dear grandson,

I am always pleased to get a letter from my first grandchild. You say you often hear from my son Frank. Well so do I. He is good at writing and I like to hear from him even though he does not say much.

Sybilia and her children being at Lamoni will be quite a comfort to Bertha and her mother. Boner, of course, being young and full of life, cannot be expected to remain very long in a place like that: He feels that he wants fun and must have it.

You must have had a good time with the Oto (sic). I cannot say that I go much on the Oto (sic). Have had a few rides in them but they are a little too fast for me. I prefer a somewhat slower gate (sic), myself.

I have no doubt but that the folks at home will be more than glad to have you home again.

I am pretty much the same as I have been - nervous and cranky. I suspect that I am not very good company for those around me. Your grandma was used to saying - "I would rather wait on a sick monkey than on a sick man." So, I take it that the folks wish me well about as much as I do myself.

Neuralgia of the heart is not a thing to be hankered after it is nothing more nor less than a toothache in the heart. No fun in that, you will say. Anyway a man having it is not overfrolicsome.

Remember kindly to all the folks.

From
Grandpa

I got several hours sleep, but today, I am so stupid it seems as if I were going daft.

Document 39 Dec 18, 1911 Letter – J. X. Allen to B Greer

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: December 18, 1911
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Typewritten Letter
Recipient: Dr. Bertha Greer
Photo No.: 2484
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

This letter, one of two he wrote nine days before his death, is special simply for his having taken the trouble to compose it. It says little more than "I am still her and I love you."

Selected quotes:

I hope that you are all well and happy.

It bothers me to run this machine, my arms and hands tremble so badly that I am apt to strike the wrong keys so often and then I take out the paper and start a new one.

I will try again when I am a little more clear in the head.

Ogden December 18, 1911

Dear Bertha,

It seems to be a long time since I heard from you and I have not written for two reasons: first, I did not know what to say: secondly, I have been feeling too bad with this pain so much of the time that I did not feel like doing anything but wish myself dead. When you are in that fix you cannot do any writing that will do anybody any good.

I hope that you are all well and happy.

The folks all seem to be doing and feeling first rate. It bothers me to run this machine, my arms and hands tremble so badly that I am apt to strike the wrong keys so often and then I take out the paper and start a new one. I have done that so often that I intend to let this one go, wrong or no wrong.

It seems that I would persist in spelling your name, Beartha. What the dickens I should persist in putting in that "A" I cannot think.

Last night, I took 2 head-ache tablets. I had walked the floor so long and my arms ache so badly together with the pain in my chest and I thought that I must have some rest, and I took 2 tablets.

I got several hours sleep, but today, I am so stupid it seems as if I were going daft.. I never indulged in narcotics in this stupid feeling bothers me quite a lot. So anything that looks foolish in this letter, why, you overlook it please.

I received a long letter from Sammy, this morning and he told me all about your folks and everybody else.

I was very sorry to learn that Evaline had a bad [...] hand. She got it from a scratch. It is getting better. I feel so stupid to say more so good bye for now and I will try again when I am a little more clear in the head.

James X Allen, Father

Last letter

Died December 24 at 4 AM.

*Well, I guess that I have said about all that I can think of so we'll say
goodbye and god bless you all*

Document 40 Dec 18, 1911 Letter – J. X. Allen to S A Burgess

Author: J. X. Allen
Date: Dec 18, 1911
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Typewritten Letter
Recipient: Samuel Allen Burgess
Photo No.: 2362
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

This letter is one of two written nine days before James Allen died. Dr. Bertha Greer, his oldest daughter, and Sammy Allen Burgess, his oldest grandchild, were his favorite correspondents at the end of his life. It is fitting that he wrote a letter to each of them on the same day. It is likely that both Sammy and Bertha saw both letters because they both lived in Lamoni and Sammy had an office in his Aunt Bertha's house. It is interesting that his letter to Bertha is mostly about how bad he was feeling whereas the letter to Sammy has some meatier content to it.

It must have been a comfort to have his daughter Beatrice and son-in-law Horace in Ogden. As stage performers they were on the road a lot but conveniently were performing in the Lyceum Theater in Ogden in December 1911. James even reports that he was able to attend one of their performances.

Clara and Ernest Stone were living in Montana in December 1911. Clara had already had three children – the youngest was six months old when the letter was written. Clara's three grandchildren, combined with the nine grandchildren by his children with his first wife Betsey, meant that he had twelve grandchildren when he died.

Selected quotes:

Now, you are ahead of your Aunt Bertha. I have always regarded her as a model letter writer

Last night, I went to the Lyceum to see Horace in a new play. I enjoyed the play very much and then rode home.

Nearly every night, about midnight, a spell takes me and I have to get up and walk about; groaning and squirming...

OGDEN, UT. DEC., 18 -- 11

My dear Sammy, Your letter is so full and complete that you have not left room for a single criticism. You take in every body, his mother, his sister, his cousin and all the family. Now, you are ahead of your Aunt Bertha. I have always regarded her as a model letter writer; but when it comes to detail work, you take the prize, sure.

I have enjoyed reading your letter very much; as it meets all my inquiries to perfection.

DEC 19. I felt too stupid last night and my head was too sick so I put the thing away until I should feel better. I had a fairly good night last night and so I have concluded to write some more, though I do not know what to write about.

I am sorry that your mother has had so much trouble with her hand and I am pleased with the news that your father has something to do and so will not be fretting all the time.

I got a letter from your Uncle Frank this morning and he says that they both are well and doing well. It is real good news that everybody is well. I like to be well myself and I like to have all my folks well.

Beatrice and her husband are both here. He has leased the Ogden Lyceum Theater and is doing fairly well. As for Clara, we are we get a letter about once a week, and she and her husband are doing well.

I am well in body, all except this plagy (sic) neuralgia in my heart and I cannot walk a block without bringing it on. But it is worst at night. Nearly every night, about midnight, a spell takes me and I have to get up and walk about; groaning and squirming and taking first one thing and then another to ease the pain which generally lasts about 2 hours, when it begins to ease up and I go to sleep. I seldom have more than one spell in a night.

You must know that I have always been a great meeting goer and now I find that I cannot go to meetings.

Last night, I went to the Lyceum to see Horace in a new play. The streetcar goes right past the theater so I took the car at our corner and rode there. I enjoyed the play very much and then rode home. But the walk from the corner to the house brought on a spell and I have had a time of it for a couple of hours.

I have not eaten a bit of meat for months. It seems that ... up to a pint of milk is about all I can manage at one time. And yet I feel when that pain is absent.

Well, I guess that I have said about all that I can think of so we'll say goodbye and god bless you all – From Grand Father

Following a short illness Dr. James X Allen, a pioneer physician of Utah, died at his home, 365 Twenty-third Street, this morning at 4:55 o'clock from neuralgia of the heart.

Document 41 Dec 27, 1911 Obituary – Ogden Tribune

Author: Unknown
Date: Dec 27. 1911
Written In: Ogden
Type: Newspaper article
Photo No.: 2485
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

James's first wife Betsey and third wife Julia survived him. Betsey had remarried James Anderson and would live another 7 years until December 1918 when she died at age 86. The much younger Julia would live another 13 years until February 1925 when she died at age 68.

Seven surviving children (in order of their birth): Dr. Bertha Greer, Sybilia Zenor, Eveline Burgess, Franklin Allen, Beatrice Carpenter, Julia (Claire) Stone, Veda Allen.

Twelve surviving grandchildren: Samuel Allen Burgess, Florence Burgess, Arthur Burgess, Harold Burgess, Sybilia Burgess, May Zenor, Boner Zenor, Ralph Allen, Bertha Allen, Katharine Stone, Allen Stone, and Marjorie Stone

Nine surviving great-grandchildren: Arthur Willard Burgess, Phroso Burgess, Sybil Knapp, Harold Knapp, Irma Knapp, Velma Knapp, Merle Knapp, Marjorie Knapp, and Allen Knapp

Two children predeceased him: William Ptolemy Allen (1861-1862) and James Reed Allen (1887-1907). Four grandchildren predeceased him: Bertha Eveline Zenor (1880-1881), Eveline Zenor (1881-1898), Bertha Carpenter (1911-1911), Baby Stone (Bef. 1910). One great-grandchild predeceased him: Burgess (1905-1905),

Selected quotes:

Dr. Allen is survived by a widow and seven children.

Twelve grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren also survive him.

DR. JAMES ALLEN DEAD

Well Known Physician Victim of Neuralgia of Heart.

Special to the Tribune

OGDEN, Dec. 27 -- Following a short illness Dr. James X Allen, a pioneer physician of Utah, died at his home, 365 Twenty-third Street, this morning at 4:55 o'clock from neuralgia of the heart. Dr. Allen was 81 years of age. He was born at Yorkshire, England, November 19, 1830. At the age of 12 years he joined the Mormon Church. He came to Ogden in 1853, and a few years later went to St. Louis to attend the St. Louis medical college, from which he graduated in March 1867.

Dr. Allen was baptized by Thomas Brown, one of the first settlers of Ogden City, and ordained in the quorum of high priests August 30, 1879, by the late Lorin Farr. He served as secretary of the quorum for a number of years. When the war between the states was declared he enlisted as a surgeon in the Union army, giving valuable service to his country during the four years of the war. He was later made medical director of G. A. R. department of Utah, a position he held at the time of his death. For some time he was commander of the Dix-Logan post at Ogden.

Dr. Allen is survived by a widow and seven children, Dr. Bertha A. Greer, Lamoni, Iowa; Mrs. E. L. (sic) Burgess, St. Louis; Mrs. Boner Zenner (sic), Moniwi (sic) Neb.; Franklin H Allen, Kansas City; Mrs. H. B. Carpenter, Ogden; Mrs. Ernest E. Stone, Sheridan, Wyo., and Miss Veda Allen, Ogden. Twelve grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren also survive him. Funeral services will be held Sunday, the hour to be announced later.

"There passes the greatest mind in Utah!" remarked my father, for he considered him very highly from days of old, when they studied together here in St. Louis.

Document 42 Dec 28, 1911 Letter – S A Burgess to Julia Allen

Author: Samuel Allen Burgess
Date: Dec 28, 1911
Written In: St Louis
Type: Typewritten Letter
Recipient: Mrs. J. X. Allen (Julia Allen)
Photo No.: 2379-2380
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

Samuel Allen made a carbon copy of this letter of condolence he wrote to his step-mother Julia Allen and kept it in his files. The special bond formed between Samuel and James is evident from his description of his trip to Utah in 1903. "I feel I know him better than many who saw him far more frequently," he wrote. Thanks to the efforts that Samuel made to keep such letters, we all are able to know James Allen.

Selected quotes:

It does not seem as if simply a man had died, but as if an institution had ceased.

We talked for three solid days from 7 A.M. till 11 P.M. and never touched on the same subject twice! It was an experience long to be remembered.

Left alone he has worked out his own salvation, educated himself, and became a force in the world.

Mrs. J. X. Allen. / Ogden, Utah,

St. Louis, Mo. Dec. 28, 1911

My dear Mrs. Allen; --

We are all much shocked and saddened to learn of the death of my grandfather. It is not at all a surprise, as we realize it was a case of touch and go with him, but still we mourn our loss and yours. "We weep not for him, but for ourselves in having lost such a friend."

It does not seem as if simply a man had died, but as if an institution had ceased. He was so much beyond the ordinary run of men in ability, thought, and learning. It seems a pity that so much of knowledge in medicine, in geology, and other scientific subjects, should now be lost to the world, though not lost to him. Though he was in all a husband, father, grandfather and friend, we honor him, too, in his exceptional mental abilities. "There passes the greatest mind in Utah!" remarked my father, for he considered him very highly from days of old, when they studied together here in St. Louis.

My mother quoted him so often to me as a child, that it seems I had known him always. Yet realize that I never saw him until shortly prior to 1890 and then very briefly on a visit back to Pleasanton, Iowa. I sat in the back of the spring wagon, when we drove six miles to the station, when he left. Then in 1903 both here and especially out there, for really the first time we became acquainted. But such an experience, as we talked for three solid days from 7 A.M. till 11 P.M. and never touched on the same subject twice! It was an experience long to be remembered. I will confess even then, far from being tired, we had only made a good start. Since then there has been our correspondence and the trip out there in 1908 and his trip here last year. In all scarcely a month association and the greater part of that in 1903. Yet I feel that I know him well., for we went so directly to the heart (page 2) of things in our talks together, that I feel I know him better than many who saw him far more frequently.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

Now he is gone for all time from the earth. Left alone he has worked out his own salvation, educated himself, and became a force in the world. He lived in St. Louis ten years (1865-1875), yet even then I find many who remember him -- for that it takes personality.

For him there is peace from suffering; he was not afraid to go, being assured that all would be well with him. Nor are we as those without hope, but with the certain assurance of life hereafter and that we shall meet again.

We mourn with you our common loss, and also send you our sympathy in sorrow. We here hope that he has placed everything safely in your name, but I am sure he has long since. If he has not, all of us - including my mother, Aunt Bertha, Aunt Sybilia, and Frank - would willingly assist you in putting it there.

We are very sorry that we cannot come to the funeral. But now he is gone we can help him no more and business presses. This would not hinder, if we could do ought for his good, but now it is peace. Though distant, yet we join you in mourning our loss.

We should like to know how he was at the last, and how he passed Christmas. But if you write to one, the rest will doubtless get to see the letter. I had intended writing him, but it would have been too late.

With sympathy and sorrow and with the wish that the Spirit of Peace may be with you the coming year, and always.

Sincerely yours,

SAB

I could write much more, but desist. His was a full life - full of years, of learning, and of doing. To you though there is our sympathy in this great loss.

He later became a practicing physician ... He moved to Ogden, Utah in 1877... He was a graduate of the old Missouri Medical College in St Louis.

Document 43 Dec 29, 1911 Obituary – St Louis Daily Globe Democrat

Author: Unknown
Date: Dec 29, 1911
Written In: St Louis
Type: Newspaper article
Photo No.: 2365
Source: Archives: Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

The notable feature of this obituary is it is accompanied by a photograph of James X Allen – the only captioned photo that I have found . The photo in the obituary is of an old man, but the man's features resemble those of a younger, bearded individual in an uncaptioned photograph. I suspect it is of James X Allen, too.

Selected quotes:

Death was due to heart disease and was sudden.

Dr. Allen was widely known as a writer of medical books and articles, and as a lecturer on medical and religious subjects.

St Louis Daily Globe Democrat

December 29, 1911

DR. JAMES X ALLEN

The funeral of James X Allen, aged 82, a former well-known physician of St. Louis and past master of Missouri Lodge No. 1, A. F. and A. M., who died Wednesday at his home in Ogden, Utah, will be held in that city Sunday afternoon. Death was due to heart disease and was sudden. Dr. Allen was widely known as a writer of medical books and articles, and as a lecturer on medical and religious subjects.

Born in England, Dr. Allen moved to St. Louis when young man and practiced medicine here before the Civil War. He served through the war as a surgeon in the Union Army. Returning to St. Louis at the close of the war, he was connected for some time with the J. S. Merrell Drug Company. He later became a practicing physician with offices in the old Masonic Hall, Seventh and Market streets. He moved to Ogden, Utah in 1877 and practiced there until his death. He was a graduate of the old Missouri Medical College in St. Louis.

Dr. Allen leaves a widow, and following four children by a former wife: Mrs. Samuel R Burgess, 5920 Etzel Avenue, St. Louis; Frank X Allen, Kansas City; Dr. Bertha Greer, Lamoni, Ia., and Mrs. Sybilia Zenor, Monowi, Neb.

Dr. James X Allen...served as a ... surgeon in the Union Army of his adopted country through a long and sanguinary war, and till the echo of the last hostile gun had died away and the lips of the cannon had grown cold.

Document 44 Jan 26, 1912 Tribute - Ogden Evening Standard

Authors: A. S. Condon, Jos. R Morrell, R. S. Joyce
Date: January 26, 1912
Written In: Ogden, Utah
Type: Ogden Evening Standard Newspaper
Photo No.: 2244
Source: Archives, Burgess Family Scrapbook P104 F90 page 83

Editor's Introduction:

This "over-the-top" tribute was clearly written by medical colleagues in the Weber County Medical Society who knew Doctor James X Allen. The tribute was published and a copy pasted into the Burgess Family scrapbook. It is also found on-line in Utah digital newspapers on-line for the January 26, 1912 edition of *Ogden Standard*.

Selected quotes:

It was in the early morning while the stars were fading that our venerable and highly esteemed colleague, ripe with the years that had abounded in a harvest of wisdom and good deeds, passed into the endless night of silence and eternal sleep.

In every walk of life Dr. James X Allen was a most exemplary man.

So lived a devoted father, husband, and good citizen.

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas the death of James X Allen occurred on the morning of December 27, 1911;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, members of Weber County Medical Society in special convention assembled, do here with make sorrowful and fraternal record of the passing of our beloved associate who for many years was a valued and honored member.

It was in the early morning while the stars were fading that our venerable and highly esteemed colleague, ripe with the years that had abounded in a harvest of wisdom and good deeds, passed into the endless night of silence and eternal sleep.

The kindly designs of Providence extended the span of his life to more than four score years, and every milestone along the way was crowned with a garland of benedictions to the fellows of his profession and to all human kind that lay on his path outside the environment of his vocation.

It has fallen to the lot of few men to pass through more stirring times and stranger vicissitudes and to use those many years for wiser and better purpose than did he whose good example we here this evening lovingly commemorate and make final record in the archives of the Weber County Medical Society.

In every walk of life Dr. James X Allen was a most exemplary man. Although of foreign birth he yet in early manhood, after graduating in medicine at the St. Louis Medical College, served as a assistant surgeon in the Union Army of his adopted country through a long and sanguinary war, and till the echo of the last hostile gun had died away and the lips of the cannon had grown cold.

And when finally the war was over he returned to Ogden, where he had resided several years prior to going to St. Louis, and here he continued the practice of surgery and medicine till a short time before his death, a period of nearly two score years. He was successful in his profession and wielded a large influence in the neighborhood where he lived. Being blessed with a sound body and robust mind enabled him to store that mind with an abundance of learning in many directions and to clothe it with wisdom gathered from the experiences and observations of the wise and great that had lived before him.

So lived a devoted father, husband, and good citizen till at last when the years were heavy in the shadows were gathering about him, he finally went to his reward, mourned by a whole community. "Sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust, he approached his grave like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to a pleasant dreams."

(Signed) A. S. Condon, Jos. R Morrell, R. S. Joyce

I have heard my father tell how he made a frame to hold his primer at the end of the row he was weaving and each time he reached that place he tried to get a letter or word so he could learn to put them together and with the aid of the cobbler he learned to read.

Document 45 Autobiography of Eveline Allen Burgess

Author: Eveline Allen Burgess
Date: Unknown, Estimate 1925
Written In: Lamoni, Iowa
Type: Typed transcription
Photo Nos.: 2508-2515
Source: Archives, Unprocessed Burgess Boxes

Editor's Introduction:

This autobiography of James Allen's daughter Eveline is undated, but its placement of Sybilia Zenor in Lamoni, Iowa implies it was written after 1910. She makes no mention of the passing of her husband Samuel, but given what she reveals about the nature of her relationship with him, I think it likely it was written after he died in 1918. Its mention of Bertha Greer implies it was written before 1930.

The information about her parents on its first page accounts for my decision to include it in this collection. The remainder is of interest because its focus is on the two aspects of Eveline's life that mattered most to her – her faith and her family. Readers of *Saints Seekers Settlers and Spirits* will know that faith and family were what mattered most to Eveline's mother Elizabeth Pidd Allen Anderson. And so it seems befitting to end this collection on the same note that SSSS ends.

Selected quotes:

When he was two years old his father died and it was a hard struggle for his mother to make a living for herself and boy.

There was no "child labor law" in England, and at age of six years, he went to work in a weavers' factory.

All his life he kept trying to learn more; and at the age of 80 years you learn to use a typewriter -- wrote me a letter then.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF EVELINE (ALLEN) BURGESS

MY FATHER

(James Allen) was born in 1830 at Sheffield, England. When he was two years old his father died and it was a hard struggle for his mother to make a living for herself and boy. There was no “child labor law” in England, and at age of six years, he went to work in a weavers’ factory.

Even at that early age he longed for knowledge: there was a neighbor - a cobbler -who could read; a rare accomplishment among the poorer classes at that date; this man liked the curly-headed little boy and taught him the alphabet.

I have heard my father tell how he made a frame to hold his primer at the end of the row he was weaving and each time he reached that place he tried to get a letter or word so he could learn to put them together and with the aid of the cobbler he learned to read.

(All his life he kept trying to learn more; and at the age of 80 years you learn to use a typewriter -- wrote me a letter then.)

He was one of the early converts to the angel message and was baptized in England about 1844 and told of his zeal in the Gospel work, often walking ten miles on Sunday (with a bit of bread and cheese in his pocket for lunch) to attend morning service and stay for afternoon frequently for night meetings and walking back to be ready for work next morning.

MY MOTHER

My mother – Elizabeth Pidd -- was born in Lincolnshire England on April 28, 1832. She united with the church in England, and leaving mother and brother, she and her sister Sarah came to America in 1853 with the many more converts to the “Restored Gospel”; going to “Zion”. James Allen was on the same ship and on the long journey over became acquainted; both were good singers and both were very enthusiastic singing the church hymns and conversing on Gospel themes and the wonderful message of salvation.

After reaching Utah -- and even on the voyage - the pernicious doctrine of plural marriage was hinted. A much-married Bishop soon began to pester the pure- minded [09] girl – so it was not a hard task for James Allen to

persuade her to marry him and rid herself of the obnoxious intentions of the old Bishop.

To this union was born three daughters and two sons. One daughter is now Dr. Bertha A. Greer of Lamoni (since deceased, the spring of 1930; COPYIST); another daughter named Eveline is now Mrs. Eveline (S. R.) Burgess; and a third is Mrs. Sybilia Zenor, now residing in Lamoni. One son died in infancy in the second son is Prof. F. X Allen of Del Rio Texas. The three girls were born in Ogden City, Utah, and the youngest child, Frank, was born St. Louis, Missouri. He was named Franklin Henry but his father had put "X" in his name as so much of his mail went to another James Allen and when Frank was growing into manhood he dropped the "Henry" inserted the "X" in his name, as he wanted to be like his father.

James Allen studied medicine while working in a drugstore and practiced some during the Civil War, as a surgeon -- he served in the Union army during the entire war and at its close continued his studies of medicine in Barnes College, St. Louis.

MY BAPTISM AND MY FAITH

In the winter of 1868 I was baptized in the river at the foot of North Market Street in St. Louis; the ice was broken on the river and our clothes froze to us as we walked out of the water to where our clothes replaced. There were several baptized but none of us seem to suffer from the cold.

The severe cold did not detract from the great joy I felt at that time and I can still recall how wonderful the angel message seemed to me. I felt sure in my own mind that everybody would join the church if they could only hear the marvelous message. I once tried to tell my schoolmates and others the "glad tidings" but a rude awakening was in store for me, and that the Gospel was a matter of ridicule to those who had heard Joseph Smith and I soon curbed my desire to tell others the "glad tidings".

I always remained enthusiastic over the *Book of Mormon* story that an enlightened and educated people have lived on this continent. Did not my school history of this [10] country begin (on the very first page) with this statement "When Columbus discovered America, he found the Indians roamed at will through trackless forests where the foot of white man had never trod." I also recall one history lesson when the teacher spoke of "A sect called Mormons who believe that a highly civilized people once lived

on this continent.” She ridiculed the idea and the “Mormon belief”. I read the *Book of Mormon* through with such interest that I could scarcely put it down -- it was so unexplainable. “Where could these people be now?” Every time I saw that some explorer had found ruins – mummies -- roads or ruined temples, I would clip the pieces out and reread and store it away. So many “finds” of unusual interest to archaeology kept appearing in papers and magazines and all showing that “A race of white people had once lived on this continent”.

As years went by more evidence came to light and no other book in the world but the *Book of Mormon* gave any reasonable explanation of where these people came from or what had become of them who were they American Indians; I began to see the divinity in the Gospel and marvel that this book should have been revealed to a mere boy in answer to prayer.

Today, of course, there are many discoveries that prove the book is not a fiction or the result of a disordered brain. All scholars admit the facts of civilization but will not credit the “angel” theory.

When I saw, in the Metropolitan Museum of New York, mummies of a “white race” with many evidences of a high state of civilization, and under these relics was written where found -- Yucatan or Central America – Cliff Dwellers etc., then the added remark “No one knows where these people come from” I wished I was a preacher and could tell the world. My early experience in trying to tell the angel message made it hard for me even to attempt an explanation of why I belonged to the church. How often I have wished I could “pass on” some of the wonderful manifestations I have received just as I can pass on material help to those I love and want to help; [I I] but the knowledge of the Gospel -- like knowledge of every kind in every avenue of life -- must be gained by study and earnest endeavor by each one for himself -- there seems to be no way we can give those wonderful moments of spiritual uplift others. I have told of manifestations that have thrilled my whole being only to note that they were received with a cold and critical look or as if the hearer rather pitied my lack of mental balance. Only once in my life when I had been moved to tell a spiritual dream and its evident meaning to a gentleman was I reported any measure of credit; he said “I am glad it is you who told this for I always regarded you as a well-balanced and intellectual woman and not given to superstition. It seems something more real.” I felt very thankful that my testimony for once was received as real and not fanciful.

Even today after many years in the church the *Book of Mormon* and the proofs by late archaeology of its truth seem one of the most miraculous proofs of the Gospel restored. Every church member should read that book and with it the *Book of Mormon* proven by archaeology.

Healings? O yes many have occurred in my family and when told outsiders have been met with “O well perhaps the child would have got well anyway” or “most likely you were not as sick as the Doctor said.”

MUSIC LESSONS

How happy I was when my father said I should take music lessons -- how eager I was to play “exercises” for anyone who would listen. When I could play S. S. music and was asked to play, I had visions and daydreams of some day being a great musician or singer; needless to say these dreams were never realized, but I kept right on learning and trying.

Before my sixteenth birthday I was given a class of little girls in Sunday school. We did not have quarterlies and just took lessons as we chose, from the Bible, usually; but I sometimes read, or told a story I had read, and have a good lesson in it and would explain to the little girls why it had been told them and would try to impress some moral truth or obligation. [12]

I have confessed my ambition to be a musician so it is not surprising that I early joined the choir.

At the school I had been chosen as one of the contraltos to fill the big chorus for the “Sangerfest” held in St. Louis, so, of course, I thought I could sing alto in our choir. Since taking organ lessons it had been my aim to learn to read music at sight, in order that I might someday play the organ in church and Sunday school. I did not expect to be elected “organist” but to be ready to act as substitute.

During this time I was attending High School and teaching music to a few beginners after school.

My younger sister and I attended the choir practices regularly – in fact I would not miss unless I really was sick because sometimes the organist was absent and to my joy I was asked to play and did not want to be absent if by any chance my services were needed.

My younger sister and I went together and we were often taken for twins being the same size and usually dressing alike.

SAMUEL R BURGESS

One evening (in my 17th year), my sister, having a severe cold, did not go with me to choir practice and, being alone, I hurried out, as soon as practice is over, and started walking rapidly towards home. I had not reached the first corner when a voice near me said “Why such a hurry, may I walk home with you?” It was the teacher of the class of young women in the S. S., the best male singer in the choir -- the one man I would at least have expected. With a toss of my head I was about to make some silly, would-be witty, refusal; some of the “boys” and often walked us, but this was a man dignified, scholarly, and rather awe-inspiring, so I said quietly “O that is not necessary, it is only a few blocks”. “But I am going over this way tonight; I must meet Will at the store.”

”Will” was his sister’s husband and they had opened a small stationery store about a block from my home on a business street. [13]

There was nothing more to be said on that point so we walked together and began discussing the anthems and then to talk of books. He was employed by a large firm dealing in books and was a fine judge of literature -- was reading “Little Dorritt”. Had I read that?” “Would I care to read it?” He was nearly through and “It was so very good.” Why do I go so into detail over a walk home from choir and talk on books? Because that walk led to many more and that talk was the beginning of our reading and discussing many of Dickens, Thackeray, Sir Walter Scott, and other works by great authors; it was also the “beginning” that led to the happiest of marriages.

I never entirely got over the feeling that he was a very superior man.

His name was Samuel Rostron Burgess – (the “Rostron” was his mother’s maiden name). He and a close friend, Johnnie Ritchie, had been baptized in the church in 1867. These two young men were very earnest and seeking the truth, they fasted and prayed that a “sign” might be given them; they “searched the scriptures” also read some of Thomas Payne, Voltaire, and Col. Ingersoll.

Not receiving evidence that was convincing to them of the truth of the Gospel, S. R. Burgess asked that his name be taken off the Church books, though he continued to attend meetings and at no time was antagonistic to the faith. He always believed it unwise if not unkind to attack any form of religion. "If you have something better and can give it in exchange for the poorer belief or religion, you benefit mankind, but, never try to belittle a man's religion" was his idea.

MAINTAINING APPEARANCES

We had many pleasant talks on revision and he had such lofty ideals and so much practical common sense mixed with a kindly feeling for every one that our conversation was always a pleasure. Early in our married life, I discovered that he thought I was very "good", and, while it was comforting and flattering to be so well thought of by a man of such high intellect, it was a great responsibility and kept me busy all the days of my life to live up to – (or try to) his opinion of me and not let him [14] discover the truth about my faults. "Deceitful?" you may say, but I did really try to be what I wanted him to think me.

Once I nearly "gave myself away "as the children would say.

It was a hot day in summer. There were four small children and they had got into mischief. I lost my temper. I scolded and "stormed" at them, -- when I heard a man step beside the house -- glancing at the clock I realized it was noon -- my husband was coming home for lunch; he had heard my railings, he would not ever think me "good" again -- all this and more rushed through my mind as I hurriedly changed my soiled gingham apron for a white one – (he had once said he liked to see a woman with a white apron in the kitchen) -- smoothed my hair nervously before going to the kitchen and there in the door -- the grocery man! I needed nothing but he got an order. My, but it was a relief! I resolved then never again to lose my temper.

I believe it was the following Sunday I was lustily singing the chorus of that old song "O, how I love Jesus!" when it suddenly occurred to me "that it is not true." I love my husband, and was filled with remorse when I thought he had heard me scolding – it had never occurred to me that my action had hurt or been noticed by any higher power. I believe that lesson has helped me many times by recurring at a critical moment.

CARING FOR CHILDREN

People often pity young mother and “don’t see how you manage with so many children.” I well remember the surprise of one of such “friends” who had said “children never pay for their raising” when I replied “Well mine do; they pay every day as they go along in the pleasure they give me and their father” and they did. But mine were such wonderful children, it was wonderful that they have been given me -- and every step in their growth and development was a pleasure. Sickness? Yes, and sometimes I have been for days and nights without rest only as I slept or dozed in a chair by the bed, but I was blessed with a feeling that they would recover, and when praying for them my Faith was always strong enough to help me to be cheerful.

Three were sick with Diphtheria during an epidemic of that dread disease before the discovery of anti-toxin. Several of my friends lost one or more children. My [15] husband’s mother was so good always to come and help when there was any sickness for she loved her son’s children -- as soon as she heard they were sick she came and once crying and ringing her hands. “Whatever is the matter?” I asked. She continued crying as she said. “O, I have asked myself all the way over here. Which one can I spare, which can we spare?” “Why grandma, we don’t have to spare any of them”, I replied. “O, but they can’t all get well! Which will we lose?” “I believe they will all get well”, I replied soothingly. I had prayed and felt that assurance; they all recovered – though one night I thought the youngest was going to leave us and the Doctor refused to come out late in the night, but he was an old man and had shaken his head over the boy’s condition in the afternoon. I believe I sent for Bro. Cotton, but cannot be sure -- but I do know the baby ate breakfast the next morning and was soon as well as the others.

One skeptical friend said “O, it just happened that your yours got well.” I know two in our neighborhood died in a few days almost before the parents realized the danger -- another friend lost three children in two weeks and still another lost two in a few days -- perhaps it “just happened” that mine lived but I prefer to believe that we were especially blessed. I don’t know why mine lived. I did all I could for them and believe my prayers were answered.

The End