

# THE ALLEN HISTORIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 31, Allen, MD 21810

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

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VOLUME 21, NO. 1, February, 2015

George Shivers, Editor

Part I

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## Community Calendar

Saturday, Feb. 28, 7:00am - 10:00am  
Historical Society breakfast, Allen  
Community Hall.

Saturday, July 4, 2:00 pm - Lions Club July  
4th Parade and Celebration. Parade lines up  
by Friendship United Methodist Church on  
the Upper Ferry Rd. and ends at the Allen  
Community Hall on Collins Wharf Road.  
Hotdogs, hamburgers and homemade ice  
cream, as well as games.

## **Nabb Center Events Salisbury University**

Exhibit: Lincoln: The Constitution and the  
Civil War. Through March 4 at the Nabb  
Gallery. Open Mon., Wed., and Fri., 1:00pm  
-4:00pm

"Slave and Free on Virginia's Eastern Shore:  
From the Revolution to the Civil War,"  
lecture by Rev. Kirk Mariner, Thursday,  
Feb. 19, 7:00pm. Holloway Hall, Great Hall.

Exhibit: Delmarvans at War: The Civil War,  
March 23 - May 15, Nabb Gallery, Mon.,  
Wed., Fri. 1:00pm - 4:00pm

"This Is My Story; This Is My Song:  
Connecting the Shared History of African  
Americans in United Methodism," Lecture  
by David W. Brown, author of *Freedom  
Drawn from Within: A History of the  
Delaware Annual Conference*. Wed., April  
15, 7:00pm, Perdue Hall, Bennett Family  
Auditorium

American Spiritual Ensemble, Concert,

Friday, Feb. 13, 8:00pm, Asbury United  
Methodist Church, Salisbury, \$20 adults,  
\$15 seniors (60 and above), \$5 for non-SU  
students and children 12 and under

SU Gospel Choir, "Music in the Air: A  
History of the Negro Spiritual - Told  
through Song, Drama & Spoken Word,"  
Saturday, Feb. 28, 7:00pm, Holloway Hall  
Auditorium

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## **In Memoriam**

It has been the practice of this editor over the  
years to publish tributes in each edition to  
those members who have passed away since  
the last edition. Over the past year this  
Society and the community of Allen have  
suffered many losses. Each person that we  
lose to death represents the loss of another  
piece of our history. As we reflect on this sad  
fact, I hope that it will remind us of the  
importance of recording the stories of our  
family members, friends and neighbors.

## **Harold Huffington**



**1925-2014**

Harold "Huff" Huffington died on Friday, December 19, 2014. He was born in Baltimore, MD on June 16, 1925 to Harold Sydney and Marie Huffington. His grandparents were Alexander Jackson and Hester Elizabeth Malone Huffington. Alexander built the Allen School House, now the Community Hall. His great-grandparents were James and Eliza Pollitt Huffington. It was Eliza who was responsible for the construction of the Huffington-Pollitt house, currently being renovated by our Society.

A decorated United States Marine, he was a veteran of World War II during which he made 3 amphibious combat landings under heavy fire on the island of Tinian, Saipan and the Marianas with the 2nd Marine Division. In 1945 he served as part of the U.S. Occupational Forces in Nagasaki, Japan.

After the war, he attended Baltimore City Community College. He had a successful career in the insurance business in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and West Virginia, eventually becoming Vice President of the Avery Hall Insurance Agency in Salisbury in September 1991.

Huff served the community in a number of ways. He was a champion of those who were battling addictions, serving on the Board of Directors of Hudson Health Service and Second Wind Halfway House in Salisbury. He was a longtime member of Wicomico Presbyterian Church, where he served as Clerk of the Session for more than 30 years. He was a lifetime member of the Elks Lodge No 817 in Salisbury and served as treasurer. Huff was an active member of our Society over the years and contributed a great deal to our projects.

Huff is survived by his wife of 53 years, Doris Ann Ramsey Huffington, by two daughters, Denise Zucchelli of Parsonsburg, MD and Margaret Ellen Carte and her husband Cam of Harrisonburg, VA, and his son Michael Cook and his wife, Liz, of Bolton, MA. He is also survived by his

grandchildren, Nichole Zucchelli of Sonoma, CA, Jenna Zucchelli of Phoenix, AZ, Jordan and Maddy Carte of Harrisonburg, VA and Ian Cook of Gardner, MA.

**Carroll N. Lentz  
1935-2014**



Carroll Norwood Lentz died on October 11, 2014. He was born in Cumberland, MD to Herbert J.J. and Loula Allen Lentz in 1935. He was a direct descendant of Mary Whittington Allen (1802-1882), Allen's first school teacher. The family home that she had built in the village still stands and was formerly known as Whittington Hall.

Carroll served six years in the Navy and sixteen in the Coast Guard, retiring in 1975. After retiring, he served as Administration and Business Manager to the Marin County, CA Sheriff. He later served as Marine Superintendent for the San Francisco Bay Stevedore Operations office at Marine Terminals Corporation.

Since moving back to the Eastern Shore in 1984, he had pursued the vocation that he loved, building things that last. He served in various construction positions and was a Certified Home Inspector.

Carroll was an active member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Princess Anne and served on the Vestry in numerous capacities. In 1993 he used his talents to lead the preparation of the church tower to accommodate English Change Ringing Bells.

He served as Tower Captain for the next 20 years.

Carroll is survived by his wife of 52 years, Patricia Riggin Lentz, by his son Eric Noel and wife Rachel, two granddaughters, Miranda and Rebecca, four brothers-in-law and their wives, and numerous nieces and nephews.

**John W. Shivers, Jr.  
1932-2014**



John W. (Jack) Shivers, Jr. died on Wednesday, November 12, 2014. He was born on May 3, 1932 to John W. Shivers, Sr. and Lillian Phillips Shivers. Jack grew up in Allen, where first his Grandfather Phillips and then his mother had a general store until the age of 14, when the family moved to the farm that had belonged to his paternal grandfather, Jay H. Shivers.

Jack loved the family farm, and especially enjoyed horseback riding with his father. He also enjoyed working with wood and other crafts. He graduated from Wicomico High School, where he was a member of the Future Farmers of America. He later attended Strayer's Business College in Washington, D.C. After graduation he worked briefly as a cabinet maker.

From 1954 until 1956 Jack served in the United States Army in the Medical Corps. His military service included a tour in Germany, during which he traveled in many of the countries in Europe. His photographs and many letters to his family recorded those experiences. After leaving the Army, Jack

worked briefly in management at McCrory's Five and Ten Cent Store in Salisbury, and later as proprietor of Shivers Gulf Service Station, also in Salisbury. In 1959 he relocated to College Park, MD, where he was manager of Canary Cottages and Mobile Home Village, owned by the A B & S Corporation, of which he later became part owner.

Jack married Joyce Harrington of Melson, MD on January 2, 1960, and they made their home in College Par until 1983, when, after his retirement from the A B & S Corporation they moved to Owings in Calvert County, MD. There he worked for a number of years with the Southern States Cooperative in Upper Marlboro. After his retirement he enjoyed his garden.

Jack enjoyed returning to Allen over the years, especially to attend Homecoming services at Asbury Church and the July 4th celebrations. He was a long-time member of the Allen Historical Society.

Jack is survived by his wife of 54 years, Joyce, by his sons Kelvin and partner Carrie, and Wade Allen, and by a grandson, Jack Michael. He is also survived by his brother George R. Shivers and wife Jeanette Sherbondy and his sister, Emma L. Shivers, all of Chestertown, and by nieces Julieta Tord Diggs and her husband David of Severna Park, MD and Dori Shivers and her partner Justin Fertig of Baltimore.

**Jacob Malone**

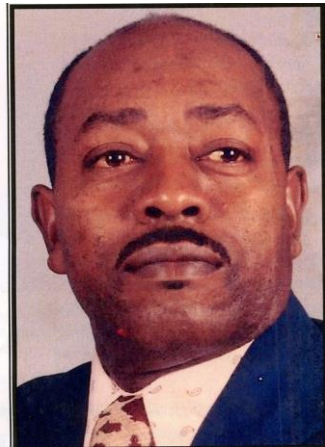


Jacob Earl "Jake" Malone, the father of Allen Historical Society member, Buddy Malone, died on June 18, 2014. He was the youngest

son of Frank and Lida Malone. Jake worked for J. Roland Dashiell and Son Construction and Carl J. Williams and Sons Construction. He was also a poultry grower for Perdue, Inc. from 1964 until 2008. He enjoyed growing vegetables in his garden and sharing them with everyone. He also enjoyed woodworking.

Jake was a charter member of the Allen Lions Club and a founding member of the Allen Volunteer Fire Dept. He was also a member of Asbury-Allen United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Susan Renshaw Malone, by his daughter Rebecca McElhone and her husband Harry, and by his son Buddy Malone and his wife Barbara. He is also survived by grandchildren Tom McElhone, Joe Bailey, Bobby Bailey, Debby Bailey Fields; great-grandchildren, Taylor Wright, Tyler, Reagan and Edyn Bailey, Craig and Alexis Bailey, Kayla and Bailey Fields; and great-great granddaughter Sophia Wright. He also leaves behind many devoted nieces and nephews.

**Ulysses Samuel Arthur Polk, Jr.**  
**1928 - 2014**



Ulysses S. A. Polk, Jr. was born in Allen on January 11, 1928 to Ulysses S.A. Polk, Sr. and Velmar Frances Dorman Polk. His grandfather, Thomas E. Polk, Sr. was a Buffalo soldier who served on the western frontier in the late 19th century.

Mr. Polk was the brother of Allen Historical Society member Velmar Morris. He attended Allen Elementary School and Salisbury High School. He served in the Army during the Korean War.

He was a Third Degree Mason and a member of the Thomas E. Polk, Sr. chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers 9th and 10th Calvary Association. From 1984 through 1989 he was chairman of the Wicomico County Housing Authority. He had been an active member of Friendship United Methodist Church, Allen, since childhood, was an early member of the Methodist Men's Choir, and a trustee of the church.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Doris Reece Cottman, a son Reginald Polk of Allen, grandchildren Ashley and Reginald Brandon Polk, great-grandchildren Taina, Parys and Londyn; and siblings Leonor Battle and Velmar Morris, as well as many nieces and nephews.

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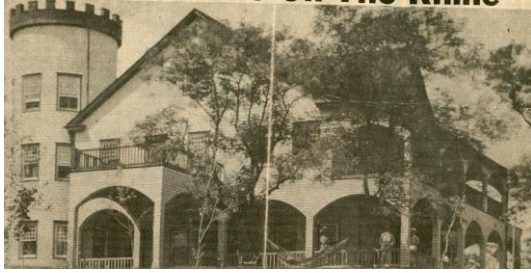
**Melody Manor**

The information for this piece comes from an article written by the late Edna Davy Muir as told to Brice Stump. It was published in the *Daily Times* on March 27, 1989. She, in turn, drew much of her information from a school project paper written by Donna Darling in 1979. Melody Manor stands on a hill on the south side of Wicomico Creek. It can be seen across the creek from the Bordeleau Winery.

The house was built soon after Mary van Hoose bought the 300-acre farm in 1903. She and her German husband, Ellison van Hoose engaged the well known New York architect, Sanford White, to design their home. It has 24 rooms and the center room has a ceiling height of 25 feet. There are 76 windows in the house.

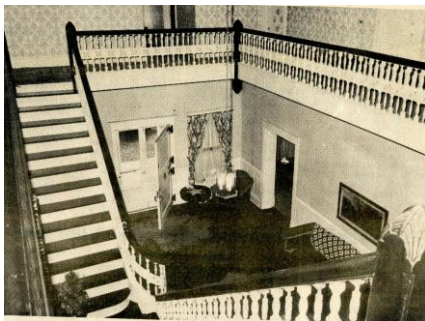
Ellison van Hoose was a tenor at the Metropolitan Theater in New York, and it was said that he would go to the highest room in the tower to rehearse. He chose the





name Melody Manor because of his love of music. Later Mr. van Hoose established a school to train opera singers at the house. The couple sold the property in 1908.

An outstanding feature of the house is the grand stairway. It divides and runs around the entire second floor in one rectangular gallery. Lyres are carved on doorway moldings. Donna Darling wrote of it in her essay: "The students had much practice ascending the main stairway, singing on the gallery and then descending the stairs with grace. The stairway greatly resembled the stairs at the Metropolitan Theater."



Kenneth and Rhoda Walbank purchased the house from the van Hooses. When Kenneth died in 1915, he left only a third of the farm to his wife, and it didn't include the house. The rest of the property went to the Chicago

Charity Hospital. In 1916 the hospital hired a local lawyer to sell the land, and it was purchased by John and Mary Value. The, in turn, sold the manor to Robert Hupke in 1929. Hupke owned a horse farm in Montana. It was during his ownership that the rumors of a speakeasy began. Mrs. Muir notes that she never went there during those years, but that her farm foreman, Joseph Pope, bought whiskey there during Prohibition. Donna Darling wrote: "The Hupkes had many private parties which were so successful that they decided to open their home regularly as a restaurant and nightclub. This place of entertainment was never open during the day and only on certain nights. When open top-line waiters in black attire would serve seafood, along with other specialties to customers sitting at tables in the main hall and music room." The Hupkes also hired a small orchestra that played for dancing. Donna notes in her paper that the manor was well patronized, "but only the elite were admitted. Customers consisted of doctors, lawyers, political figures, and even a few of the Shore's baseball players."

When one of the Hupkes' daughters contracted diphtheria, they moved into Salisbury and left Clarence Butler, a retired Crisfield hotel owner in charge and the nightclub business ended. They sold the manor in 1935 to William Adams, a New York broker originally from Crisfield.

In 1938 Adams sold the property to Robert Benepe and his wife of New York City. They sold it to Anny Godsey in 1958. She was the owner of Anny Godsey's Dress Shoppe in Salisbury. During her ownership 300 acres were added to the property.

In 1975 the property was purchased by two brothers, Ephraim and Courtland Adkins. The latter died in 1979. Ephraim Adkins eventually sold the property as well, and interestingly purchased the farm owned by Burt Widdowson and the property on which he developed Passerdyke Acres, including our own Passerdyke Cottage. There is now a

development on the Melody Manor farm, and I do not know who owns the manor itself.

### Pictures from the Past



**Allen School Boys, 1920**

The names of the boys on the left are illegible, but on the right are Wilson Shivers and Phoebus Jones



**Allen School Girls, 1920**

Back row: Lillian Phillips and Nellie (last name unknown); Front row: Pauline Phillips and Helen (last name unknown)



Jayne Shivers  
Some happy memories....  
Oct. 22, 2000



### Photos from the Collection of the late Rosalie Fields

Top left: Jayne Shivers; School photos of Jayne Shivers, Rosalie Fields, Bobby Banks and Harry Cooper.



AT 4-H CAMP—These Marylanders are attending the silver anniversary of the National 4-H Club Camp in Washington. Left to right; Jayne R. Shivers, of Allen; Henry F. Comegys, of Centreville; Mary Lou Smith, of Mitchellville; Charles W. Coale, Jr., of Forest Hill, and Betsy Lovington, assistant home-demonstration agent in Frederick county.