

# 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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George Shivers, Editor

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## Community Calendar

Sat., March 11, 10am – 2pm  
Asbury United Methodist Church Spring  
Bazaar, Allen Community Hall

Sunday, March 12, 1 – 4 pm AHS  
members are invited to a “Sneak Peek”  
of our museum prior to the official  
opening in April. Huffington-Pollitt  
House, 3430 Allen Road.



Entrance to Museum

## Notes on 19<sup>th</sup> Century Allen

In 1951 Ruth Jones Wilkins solicited information from several of Allen’s old-timers about their memories of the village. She specified several areas and events they should focus on. Mr. Will Messick (born in 1873) responded in the form of random notes which follow.

Village blacksmith: Mr. George Bothman  
Rez Hickman

C.C. Vickers - Band leader and music teacher

R.J. Stewart, Jr.

Kelly son Chas. from Eden.

Wheelwrights:

Mr. John Huffington

Built carriages, buggies, horse carts and all kinds of farming materials and repaired all of same.

Son Walter J. Huffington attended Allen School. Levin Price teacher. Was principal of Salisbury High School and Superintendent of Colored Schools of the State of Md.

Martha taught in Wicomico County schools, the high school of Salisbury and schools in Baltimore City.

Levin Busco Price, Village School Teacher, seven grades, one room school building. Had 65 or 70 pupils during winter months. Reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography, history and physiology. Used Spincerial (?) copy book, Davis arithmetic. Don't remember any other. We used all the

books and then turned them over to Elizabeth Maddox and Earle Messick. Discipline fine.

Walter Huffington and myself used to take a pocket full of peach tree oak acorns in the fall and annoy the teacher rolling them up the aisle. We built a play house of wood and pine shats with two rooms and one day there were more boys who had asked to go out while the teacher was busy. Then he was left in school and when he realized this, he came out to look for them and as they came out one by one, he gave them a lick with a switch he was holding in his hand and then demolished the house.

Map exercises first, then speeches. Studied map of Maryland tacked up on the wall, going over each county and its capital and main rivers. Had to bring water from Mr. Jack Hitch" and . . . (Editor's Note: What follows is illegible.)

Church:

Pastors Davis, Lundsdon (?), Robbins, Routen, Jones, (?), Garner, Bray, Bradford, Brooks, White, Pettus, Baker, Martin, Robb, Crawford, Smith, (?), Cursy, Dickey, Connolly, Jack, Twilley.

Superintendent: W. W. Disharoon.

Not many church socials

Christmas tree, all children receiving orange, apple and bag of candy.

A splendid choir for a small country church. P.A. Malone director.

Band played at all the picnics held in and around the community and went to Belle Haven, Va. on one occasion.

Don't remember too much about the Literary Society and I was not too literary minded.

Watermelon Stealing:

Prefer not to say too much about that as I was guilty too often of engaging in this practice. Lin Allen and myself were in Mr. Price's watermelon patch back of the church and stole the largest one we could find, but

showing us all very well even to our foot prints. Figured that we were the guilty ones.

Never sit up with the dead, so haven't much on this subject.

Dr. J.I.T. Long, our physician, And I drove him around throughout the country while he studied and slept and he was a very busy person. Charged \$1.00 a visit and furnished all of the medicine. Kept 2 or 3 driving horses. Not too many tragedies in those days.

We all visited the Gypsies at Jones' gate and lots of folks had their fortunes told.

From 100 to 150 could be seen skating on the pond at night with bonfires built on the shore and folks coming from all directions from Salisbury to Princess Anne.

Was not uncommon to see 30 or 40 persons down in the swimming hole but not too many bathed on Sunday and boys were forbidden by their parents to do so. Jim Stewart's father came down and caught Jim, Jr. and he gave him the worst beating that I ever saw anyone get. Blood was running down his back.

Everyone in those days respected the Sabbath very much more than they do today. I will say that Mr. Stewart was not a professing Christian, but lived up to the teachings of Christianity.

Most all communities held camp meetings. Siloam, Hebron, Sharptown, Mt. Vernon, Deal Island, Laurel, Willards. The trips to these camps were made by horse and buggy, boat and train.

Steamboats made trips to Baltimore, leaving Salisbury on Monday, Wed. and Friday, carrying freight and passengers. The wharf where the Allen folks boarded these boats was known as Collins Wharf, now known as Allen Wharf, but they have long since ceased their river operation. This business all having been taken over by trucks. Small sailboats also plied the tributaries of the Bay and

rivers, carrying canned goods, empty cans and cases, wood, fertilizer, etc.

The old pond operated a grist and saw mill and a set of floodgates to regulate the water level. Mr. Geo. P. Reddish was first miller and Mr. Allen T. Phoebus the second. Both were very good millers. On rainy days they were kept quite busy. The old saw mill was the up and down type. Lumber used in buildings throughout the village.

Trips to County Seat very generally made on Saturday by most folks of the County. Lumber wagons, corn fodder and county folks holding farm produce came in any time. It took most of Saturday to make the trip from Allen.

### **Colonel George Dashiell**

The Dashiell family has been discussed at recent meetings. The following information is taken from volume 2 of Dashiell family records published in 1929 by Benjamin J. Dashiell.

The following information comes from a volume titled "George Dashiell Consolidated Revolutionary War Activities.

*George Dashiell* was Sheriff of Somerset County 1770-1773, County Court Justice 1775-1777, Judge of the Court of Appeals for Tax Assessment 1786. He was a Colonel, Somerset Militia January 6, 1776; County Lieutenant July 1, 1777 to at least July 24, 1780. He was appointed as Collector of Clothing for the American Army in Somerset County on November 27, 1777, and Commissary of Purchase in 1780. He attended the MD Conventions in 1774, 1775 and 1776, and signed the Association of the Freemen of Maryland on July 26, 1775. He took the Oath of Allegiance in Somerset County February 7, 1778 before the Hon. Joseph Venables.

Rose witnessed the will of Thomas Marshall in 1760 and married *George Dashiell* that

same year, at age 15. Rose and *George* went to Somerset County, MD.

**George Dashiell (1743-c1805)** - Son of George and Elizabeth Dashiell. *George* married first to Rose (Arosy) Fisher on Aug 6, 1760 and second to Sally Dennis by 1803. Children: James Fairfax, Tubman (my ancestor), Jolm, Josiah, Robert (physician), George (Reverend), William D., and Fisher. He served as Sheriff of Somerset County, 1770-1773; County Court Justice, 1775-1777; Judge of the Court of Appeals for Tax Assessment, 1786 [Ref: R-252, R-253]. Colonel, Somerset Militia, Jan 6, 1776; County Lieutenant, July 1, 1777 to at least July 24, 1780 [Ref: M-67, M-222, J-1814 (Box 8, Dashiell's correspondence), C-304]. Appointed as Collector of Clothing for the American Army in Somerset County on Nov 27, 1777, and Commissary of Purchases in 1780 [Ref: C-426, P-261, P-263, P-297, P-301, P-363]. Attended the Maryland Conventions in 1774, 1775 and 1776, and signed the Association of the Freemen of Maryland on July 26, 1775 [Ref: 0-1, 0-4, 0-28, A-67]. Took the Oath of Allegiance in Somerset County on Feb 7, 1778 before the Hon. Joseph Venables [Ref: T-25].

*Colonel George Dashiell* who was a prominent soldier of Somerset County, Maryland. Pat Melville writing for the Maryland State Archives' newsletter, The Archivists' Bulldog, wrote, "During the American Revolution, popular sentiment on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland leaned toward the British cause or indifference. Many citizens were more concerned about preserving their property, especially slaves, than about defending a new nation and new state government. Efforts to recruit men for military service, even in the local militia, produced meager results. The men who did join might show up for training or duty sessions, or they might decide some other task was more important.

*Colonel George Dashiell* was able to overcome these difficulties and was in command of the companies who resisted the British attempt to take over the southern half

of the Delmarva Peninsula on the Chesapeake Bay.



Dashiell's Lott, also known as Bennett's Adventure, is located on the south side of Collins Wharf Road west of the village of Allen in Wicomico County, MD. The story-and-a-half gambrel roofed brick house, located at the end of a long tree-lined lane, is oriented toward Wicomico Creek. The main facade faces south with the roof oriented on an east/west axis.

### Benjamin F.A.C. Dashiell

BENJAMIN F. A. C. DASHIELL, LAWYER, SOLDIER,  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

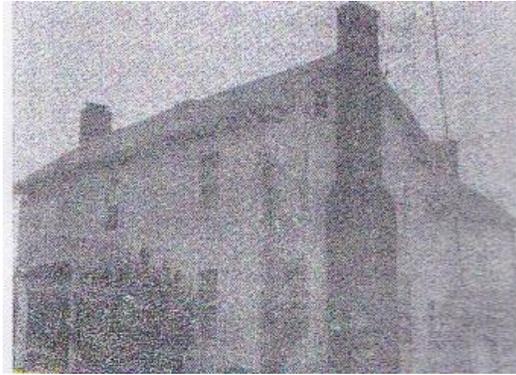
(T-426)—BENJAMIN FREDERICK AUGUSTUS CEASER DASHIELL, son of Joseph Dashiell and Martha Bluett.  
Born May 22, 1763.  
Died April, 1820.  
Married Henriettae.  
Born 1757.  
Died December 7, 1791, grave on Dashiell Lot farm.  
Issue:  
502—ELIZABETH LEAH.  
503—THEODORE GUNBY (see later.)  
504—HENRIETTAE ANN.

MEMBER OF THE HOUSE.

"Mr. Ben. F. A. C. Dashiell was a member of the House of Delegates, from Somerset County, Maryland, in the years 1800—1802—1803."

A MASON.

"The following Bretheren were appointed for the present year, Viz:—"  
"Benj. Fred. A. C. Dashiell, for Somerset County." See Shultz Masonic Maryland records, as follows Vol. 2 page 65-71 proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Maryland held in the City of Baltimore 14 day of May A.D. 1804, A.L. 5804.) Also Vol. 2—page 358 shows him to be a member of Somerset Lodge # 49 at the commencement of the year 1820, as he is among a list of "Members" "Benj. F. A. C. Dashiell"—



Sadly, this is a very poor quality photo, but was probably the home later on the site of the house belonging to Benjamin F.A.C. Dashiell at the time of the 1798 census. At that time, his home was described as "a wood dwelling measuring 34' X32'". It was also noted that it was one story with a hep roof. It is probable that it was enlarged by a subsequent owner in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly the next owner, Robert Jones.

### Obituary of Revell Hayman

*Salisbury Advertiser*  
Saturday, February 19, 1898

#### Death of Revell Hayman

Revell Hayman, a well-known and, at one time, prominent citizen of Somerset County, died in Salisbury on last Tuesday, to which city he had moved some time ago. He was born in July, 1831 and had he lived until next July, he would have been 67 years old, which is not a very old age; but sometime ago he received a stroke of paralysis, which left him quite feeble, and it is thought that that hastened his death.

During his life he had been Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff, and Collector of State and County taxes for Somerset County and was greatly respected by those who knew him. His remains were buried on last Thursday at Allen at 2:30 p.m. and his funeral was attended by a number of his friends from Princess Anne and vicinity. He had been twice married, and the widow which he left was a daughter of the late Richard Snelling - Princess Anne Marylander.

## Obituary of Henry J. Dashiell

*Salisbury Advertiser*  
April 9, 1892

### Death of Henry J. Dashiell

Henry J. Dashiell, a prominent citizen of this county, died at his home of heart failure, last Sunday night about eleven o'clock. He had been ailing for some months, suffering from the disease that finally severed the vital cord. Before the war Mr. Dashiell was a large slave owner, and had at various times during his life been a large real estate owner, principally in Trappe district. He once owned and occupied the property in Trappe district opposite Old Green Hill, where Samuel Chase, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, resided. The building that is there now was probably erected at a later date, but is quaint and belongs to a bygone era of architecture.

He leaves three children, Mrs. Disharoon of Cape Charles, Va., Mr. J. Louis Dashiell and Mrs. Price, the mother of Mr. Jesse O. Price, the well known shoe dealer of this city.

Funeral services were held at his late residence on Division Street Tuesday at noon by the Rev. Potts assisted by Rev. Hank of the M.E. Church, South, of which he had been a member for many years.

The interment took place in the family burying ground on the Chase place.

The pallbearers were Messrs. Amos W. Woodcock, E.L. Wailes, James Cannon, W.B. Tilghman, S.T. Williams, and W.I. Todd. He was nearly 80 years old.

## Obituary of James Rollo Jones, Jr.



Allen - James Roo Jones, Jr. 84 of Allen, Maryland departed this life on Friday May 6, 2022, at Costal Hospice on the Lake in Salisbury, Maryland. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 11:00 am at Bennie Smith funeral Home, 901 W Isabella St, Salisbury, Maryland where a visitation will be one hour prior. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to Coastal Hospice PO Box 1733, Salisbury, Maryland 21802-1733 in his name.

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## Obituary of Margaret Gunther Barkley



On Thursday, October 7, 2021, Margaret Ellen (Gunther) Barkley peacefully departed this earthly life at the age of 102, in her Eden, Maryland home, surrounded by her loving and only surviving daughter, Martha Cottman, and granddaughters, Charmaine Wright and Faye Corbin. Margaret was born October 15, 1918, in Allen, Maryland to the late Dare Polk and Fred Gunther. She attended school and church in Allen as well. Margaret was joined in holy matrimony to Howard Alex Barkley and the couple was blessed with seven children. Despite having a large family, Margaret made time for others,

working for Dr. Talmadge Reeves for more than thirty years. During that time, she became as close as family and served as a "special" grandmother at the Holly Center and the local Head Start program in Eden, Maryland, for sixteen years. One of her legacies is longevity. Margaret leaves to cherish loving memories her daughter: Martha Cottman; son-in-law: Robert Finney; grandchildren: Deborah, Faye, Edwin, Charmaine, Patricia, Linden, Elizabeth, Kevin, Denise, and Michelle; a host of great, great-great-grandchildren; niece: Peggy Gunther; cousin: Lottie Bivens; close friends: Eunice Morris, Alonzo Mills, and many other extended relatives and friends. She will be deeply missed.

In addition to her parents, Margaret's husband: Alex Barkley; her brothers: John, Lee, and Atwood; her children: Fred, Herman, Oliver, John, also known as Jack, Alphonso, and Remonia; grandsons: Thomas Cottman and Donald Banks Jr., all preceded her in death.

Lovingly Submitted By The Family  
Note: Howell & Jolley Memorial Chapel, P.A. will comply with the COVID-19 rules regarding masks and safe social distancing. Therefore, anyone attending the viewing and/or funeral services must wear a mask. We will also take temperature upon entry.

Psalms 65: 5-8  
5. My soul, wait for thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him. 6. He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved. 7. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. 8. Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

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**Join the Allen Historical Society! Individual: \$15**

**Family: \$20**

**Patron: \$40**  
**Sustaining: \$250**

**Send dues to Allen Historical Society,  
P.O. Box 31, Allen, MD 21810**

**Send us an email and we will see that you are invited to our meetings and other activities. These days you can join us through Zoom!**