

Family of Joseph Allen & Margaret Crawford

By Jerry Long
c.2025



Joseph Allen (1774-1862) & his wife, Margaret Crawford (1779-1862)'s gravestone (tall obelisk monument) is along the back edge of the Old Hardinsburg Cemetery, in Hardinsburg, Breckinridge County, KY. It is in front of greenery in center of the bottom picture. Pictures taken by Jerry Long on 12 May 1981.



Historic Families of Kentucky, Thomas Marshall Green
(Cincinnati, OH: Robert Clarke and Co., 1889) pp.276-278:

Joe Allen, the second son of James Allen and Mary Kelsey, was as remarkable for the persistence with which he resisted every effort to draw him into public life, for which he was well adapted by education and a vigorous intellect, as he was for his uncommon strong practical sense, his benevolence, his rich and racy humor, his integrity and utter fearlessness. With his brother-in-law, Joseph Huston, he removed to what was afterward Breckinridge county some years before the beginning of this century, and while it was still almost unpeopled. Indian raids had not ceased, and in repelling them, and carrying the war into their own territory north of the Ohio, the deliberate courage and herculean frame and strength of the young Allen enabled him to do good service and effective fighting. In two of the campaigns of the War of 1812, he was captain of the advance-guard, or, as it was called, "the company of spies." Twice was he offered, and as often refused, the colonelcy of a regiment, alleging as his reason " that he knew how to command his company, but did not know that he could command a larger body," which, he contended, should always be placed under the orders of trained and educated officers. At that early period, horse thieves had collected in large numbers in Indiana, from whence they made excursions into Kentucky. It was Joe Allen who organized and led the band of Kentuckians against the marauders, broke up and burned their settlements, killed many of them, and dispersed their whole body. Upon his return, he was asked what had become of the leader of the gang; and replied that the last he had seen of him was through the sights of his rifle. The governor of Indiana sent a body of soldiers to Hardinsburg to capture Allen, who rallied his men, and made prisoners of the soldiers, who then fraternized with their captors. On the organization of Breckinridge county, in 1800, Joseph Allen was appointed clerk of the circuit court, held the office until 1852 under that appointment, and was then elected for six additional years; this was the single instance of his ever being a candidate for any place. Albeit, a leader in all public enterprises, a good lawyer, an electrical speaker, personally greatly beloved, and in every way singularly well qualified for public affairs, Joe Allen resolutely turned his back upon every proposition to enter public life. In 1803 he married Margaret Crawford, the daughter of a highly-respectable farmer who had recently removed to Breckinridge from Botetourt county, Virginia. They had five children. Jane Allen, their oldest daughter, married John McClarty, a merchant of Hardinsburg, by whom she had nine children; one of these, Clinton McClarty, was elected clerk of the house of representatives in 1859, was a candidate for clerk of the court of appeals in 1860, was a soldier in the Confederate army, and is now a bank officer in Louisiana. Horace, the second child of Joe Allen, married Elizabeth Larue, of the county of that name; their son, Joseph Allen, is a merchant in Louisville, and their daughter, Mary L., married "Wm. Piatt, now of Barren county. Mary, the third child of Joseph Allen, married Francis Peyton, a prominent lawyer. They had six children — Joseph A. Peyton; Cornelia, who married D. C. Gannaway;

Margaret, who first married Jas. D. Morton, and then George Chick, of Breckinridge; Alfred H. and Ellen Peyton. Ellen, fourth child of Joe Allen, married Dr. Wathen, of Breckinridge county.

Alfred Allen, the fifth child of Joe Allen and Margaret Crawford, represented Breckinridge county in the legislature in 1838—39; was then appointed by Governor Clark commonwealth attorney for that district, in which position he was continued, by successive appointments and an election, until 1856; in 1859, was the Whig candidate for lieutenant-governor; was re-elected to the legislature in 1861, and continued in that capacity until 1866, when he resigned in order to accept the consulship to Foochoo, China, where he remained until recalled at his own request. Mr. Allen, in 1853, married Mary E. Jennings, by whom he has two children — Horace and Mary Allen.



**The Weekly Maysville Eagle, Maysville, KY, 13 April 1881, p.2
(section of article, “A Family Sketch”, by Thomas Marshall Green,
editor & proprietor of the Weekly Maysville Eagle):**

Joseph Allen, the second son of the pioneer, was one of the most, remarkable men of his day. In strength of intellect he had few superiors; in physical structure almost herculean; a sense of right that seemed intuitive, a heart as kind and gentle as his good woman's; perfectly fearless; discharging all his obligations to his country and his neighbors, he lived universally respected, and died in 1862, in his 88th year, as universally regretted. He removed to Breckinridge county before the year 1800, passing his time in surveying, hunting, and occasionally in fighting the Indians. When Breckinridge county was organized in 1800, he was appointed Clerk of both its Courts and held both offices for fifty-eight years, He was never a candidate for any public office but once, for these Clerkships under the new Constitution, and was then elected. In 1803 he married Margaret Crawford, daughter of a reputable Virginian, who had settled in Breckinridge, and with her he lived for more than fifty-five years. He was the leader of the Kentuckians who made the raid upon the horse thieves who had congregated in large numbers in Indiana Territory, breaking up their settlements, burning their houses and killing many of the marauders, and dispersing their whole body. On his return, on being asked what had become of the leader of the gang, he replied he did not know, but the last he had seen of him was through the sights of his rifle. The Governor Indiana sent a body of militia to Hardinsburg to capture Allen, who promptly rallied his men and captured the soldiers, who afterward fraternized with the resolute Kentuckians. Immediately after the election of Gen. Scott over John Allen in 1808, he wrote to the younger brother, thanking him for what he had done, wishing him to continue the warfare upon the horse thieves and promising assistance if necessary. In 1812, Joseph Allen performed signal service as Captain of the spies or scouts, leading the advanced guard in two of the bloodiest campaigns. Although repeatedly offered promotion, he as often refused it, saying he knew how to command his own men, but the higher offices should be given to men of a military education and experience. He was a good lawyer, an electrical speaker, a leader in all public enterprises, singularly well qualified for public life, but this his unambitious nature rejected. His oldest daughter married Joseph McClarty, and was the (mother of Clinton McClarty, Clerk of the House in 1859, Breckinridge candidate for Clerk of the Court of Appeals in 1860, a gallant soldier in the Confederate army, and now a lawyer in Louisville. Jos. Allen's oldest son, Horace, was the father Joseph A. Allen, and of the wife of Mr. Piatt, of the firm of Piatt & Allen, one of the most successful business houses in Louisville. Another

daughter married Francis Peyton, a member of the Virginia family of that name, brother of the former Congressman from the Second District, and himself a prominent lawyer and politician. The second son of Joseph Allen is Hon. Alfred Allen, of Breckinridge, a name well and favorably known through out Kentucky. He was a member of the Legislature in 1838-9, and acquitted himself with distinguished ability. After the conclusion of his services he was appointed Commonwealth Attorney, and held the office until 1856, proving himself competent to cope with the ablest members of the Bar. In 1859 he was nominated for Lieut. Governor, a fitting second to Joshua F. Bell, and made a canvass that made the mountains and valleys ring. In 1861 he was elected to the Legislature as a Unionist, holding the place by successive elections until 1866, when he was appointed Treasurer of the State, without solicitation, by Gov. Bramlette. In 1868 he was appointed Consul to Foochow, China, by President Johnson, and was recalled at his own request. in 1869.



Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, Wednesday, 30 April 1862, p.3:

OBITUARY.

Another of the few pioneers of this State has been gathered to his fathers. Capt. Jo. ALLEN, of Hardinsburg, Ky., departed this life on the 23d of April, 1862. He was born on the 20th of September, 1774. His father emigrated to this State about the year 1780, and remained a short time in the fort at Danville, That place becoming to straight for him, together with Mr. Davis (father of the celebrated Jo. H. Davis) put up a couple of log cabins three or four miles from the fort, where they lived for some years. In the wilderness, surrounded by savages, and enduring the privations and hardships incident to such a state, the deceased learned his first lessons of life. He became self-reliant, independent, reckless of peril, and fond of adventure. His whole life bore the impress of his early training. He was an earnest, honest man. There was no halting in his opinions. What he believed he believed firmly, and followed out the convictions of his mind without faltering and without fear. Captain Allen came to this (Breckinridge) county when it was almost a wilderness, and was elected Clerk of the courts of the county in the year 1800, which office he held for 56 years. From that time until his death, he took an active interest in whatever concerned the well-being of the county. The people were subject to inroads of horse thieves, who, taking refuge on the other side of the river, escaped the penalties of the law. The evil had to be suppressed by other means. Through his agency and that of others likeminded, it was suppressed if not strictly within the letter of the law.

For years after his removal to this county, he was the guide and legal adviser of the people – their counsellor and friend. In every legal difficulty the people resorted to him, and he took pleasure in suggesting such relief or information as the case required. He was a good, sound lawyer, and his advice was implicitly followed. He was emphatically a man of large mind and soul, comprehending fully his relations and obligations to society and Government. He loved his country, and in the war of 1812 was active in raising volunteers for its defence, and, in keeping with his character, put his own person in the forefront of the peril. He stood by the Government, against those who are now striving to overthrow it, and if he had a desire to live (after the recent death of his estimable wife, with whom he had lived happily for about 59 years), it was that he might see the clouds now lowering over his country dispersed, the government firmly established,

and the country – the whole country – united. His latest thoughts were on this subject. "What is the news?" said he to a grand-daughter a day or two before his death; "but don't tell me of any rebel victories." And to his son about half an hour before his death, his last audible utterance, he said: "What is the news? Is the Union army still victorious?" But he died, leaving his country, that he loved so much, the theatre of fraternal strife and bloodshed.

There was no truer friend than Captain Allen. He stood by his friend against all odds. He shared peril with him, and made his cause his own. It was impossible for such a character not to have been liked heartily. He had no tolerance for what he judged to be mean or base, and no care to suppress his condemnation the of life it.

The above is a very incomplete sketch of an earnest, honest, and useful man. He outlived all of his immediate family except his son, Col. Alfred Allen. He went down to his grave full of years, honored by all who knew him – by those most who knew him best.

Democrat and Commonwealth will please copy.



The Commonwealth, Frankfort, KY, Tuesday, 4 March 1862, p.3:

Died

At Hardinsburg, Ky., Mrs. Margaret Allen, wife of Jo. Allen, Esq.

She was one of the pioneer mothers of Kentucky. Born in Botetourt county Virginia on the 4th day February, 1779, her father brought her to this State while she was still a girl. On arriving at womanhood she intermarried with the man to whom she was a fond and faithful wife for over sixty years. Discharging completely, through a long life the various duties of wife, mother, neighbor, friend, and Christian. She sunk to sleep on the 20th day of February, 1862, in the 84th year of her pious and valuable life, deeply mourned by a large circle of descendants and friends.



**Kentucky: A History of the State, J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin & G. C. Kniffin
(Louisville, KY & Chicago, IL: F. A. Battey Publishing Company, 3rd edition 1886:**

HON. ALFRED ALLEN, a statesman by nature and a lawyer by profession, is a master spirit of the age in which he lives. His intellectual gifts are of a high order, and his social qualities have called about him troops of sincere and admiring friends. Of the many lawyers that have adorned by their genius and intellect the bar of Kentucky, Mr. Allen will go into history a conspicuous and pre eminent figure. He was born September 25, 1814, in Hardinsburg, and is a son of Joseph and Margaret (Crawford) Allen, natives of the "Old Dominion", and the former a son of James Allen, who came from Ireland in an early day and settled in Pennsylvania. Spending some time in Pennsylvania, he then went to the West Indies, but shortly after returned to America and settled in Rockbridge County, Va. He immigrated to Kentucky in 1780, and located near Danville, in the present county of Boyle, where, with another pioneer, Mr. Daviess, the father of the distinguished Col. Joseph Hamilton Daviess, they made a settlement a few miles from the station, leaving the fort on account of the profanity of the garrison and others; he was a strict Presbyterian. He lived there for three years, and then went to what is now Nelson County, and

made a settlement near where the village of Bloomfield now stands. He put up a small cabin and returned for his family, but upon taking them to his new home, he found the Indians had burned his cabin during his absence. Winter was at hand; but endowed with the energy of the frontiersman, he went to work and with the aid of his wife soon constructed another cabin. Here he lived until his death, at the beginning of the century, and the place is still in the possession of his descendants; his wife, Mary (Kelsey) Allen, was a native of Virginia, but died in Nelson County, Ky., in May, 1808. Two of their sons were Joseph and John. The latter, Col. John Allen, was one of the ablest lawyers of his day - the rival of Henry Clay in the court of appeals. He was a colonel in the war of 1812, and fell at the battle of the River Raisin. His name is perpetuated in that of a county. (See historical sketch of Allen County). Joseph Allen (the father of the subject) was born in Rockbridge County, Va., September 20, 1774. He came to Kentucky with his parents when a small boy. His early years were passed in Nelson County; and about 1790 (the time of the formation of this county) he came to Breckinridge. In the organization of its legal machinery, he was chosen county and circuit clerk of the new county. No other evidence of his official integrity is required than the fact that he held both offices for a period of fifty-eight years. He was a lawyer and practiced his profession in early times when the duties of his office would permit; he served in the war of 1812. He married Margaret, a daughter of Samuel Crawford, of Irish descent, and who came from Virginia to Kentucky toward the close of the last century, and settled in the western part of Breckinridge County, where he died in 1821. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Allen were Jane, Horace, Mary, Ellen and Alfred (the subject of this sketch). All except the last are dead. He remained with his parents until grown, receiving his education in the schools of Hardinsburg. A large part of his youth and early manhood was spent as deputy clerk under his father. With him he read law, and received license to practice about 1836. He at once entered upon the duties of his profession in the courts of Breckinridge and adjoining counties, and soon won his way to the front rank of the bar. He acquired a large practice in the district, and his recognized ability, as a criminal lawyer, led to his appointment, in 1840, by Gov. James Clark, as commonwealth's attorney, which position he held by successive appointments until 1851, when, under the new constitution of the State, the office was made elective. He was elected to the same position in 1851, and during his term the celebrated Ward trial (see sketch of Judge Kincheloe) came up at Elizabethtown. As the leading prosecutor of Ward, his speech was, perhaps, one of the ablest he ever made, and indeed, has few equals in the history of criminal prosecution. At the close of his term of office, in 1855, he resumed the practice of law at Hardinsburg, in which he continued until the breaking out of the civil war. He was elected to represent Breckinridge and Hancock Counties in the Legislature in 1839, and served one term. In 1859 he made the race for lieutenant-governor of the State on the Whig ticket, or as then called, American ticket, with Joshua F. Bell. He made a brilliant canvass of the State, and though unsuccessful, received a flattering vote. He declined several nomination for Congress at a time when a nomination was equivalent to an election. When the civil war came on, without any hesitation he took his stand for the Union, and maintained it until the end of the struggle. He was elected to the Legislature in 1861, and served until 1865-66, a period when that body comprised more talent and intellect than any other, perhaps, since the organization of the State. He was one of that coterie of patriotic spirits such as Garrett Davis, Dr. Robert Breckinridge, James Speed, John M. Harlan, Judge Goodloe, C. C. Burton, Joseph Holt and others, who were willing to make any sacrifice to support the government in the struggle for life. In 1866 he was appointed State treasurer by Gov. Bramlett, and held the office for two years, when, in 1868, he was appointed by President Johnson, consul to Foo-Chow, China, in which position he remained until recalled by President in 1869. For several years after his return to the United States, he resided

in Louisville, engaged in the tobacco business, but in 1877 removed back to Hardinsburg, where he has since lived. He has retired from the active practice of the legal profession, after a long and brilliant career. He was married, June 28, 1853, to Mary E. Jennings, a daughter of Jefferson and Mary (Allen) Jennings, of this county; the former a prominent lawyer of the Breckinridge bar. Six children were born to this marriage, viz.: Stewart, Anna G., Jennings, Graham, Horace and Mary E. Mrs. Allen died in 1864. Mr. Allen is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and of the Methodist Church. He was originally a Whig but now votes with the Republican party.



Breckinridge News, Cloverport, KY, Wednesday, 13 April 1892, p.2:

Death of Col. Alf. Allen.

Hardinsburg, Ky., April 11. – Col. Alf Allen died at Beard's Hotel, in this place last Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. His death was not a surprise to the community, as he had been in feeble health for more than a year. Many thought that he could not hold up as long as he did, on account of a general breaking down in his system which was apparent to many several months ago. But the Colonel was a man of extraordinary physical endurance, and while his sufferings must have been at times pretty severe, he never exhibited much outward signs of complaint. To his most intimate friends he seldom spoke of his physical suffering, but all along bore his afflictions patiently and seemed to be ready for the end when it came. A few days before his death, his mind became unbalanced, and there were times when he know no one and seemed to be unconscious of his surroundings. These symptoms would wear away though in a short time when he would be at himself again. On Thursday he was out on the street a while, and in the forenoon walked as far down as the Cool Spring, a point some distance below town. This place has always been a favorite resort of the Colonel's, the spring being on his land. He always claimed that it furnished the best water in the world, and like many other things around Hardinsburg, he always thought them better than could be found anywhere else. He was particularly partial to his town and his people. Not through any fault of pride or selfishness, but on account mainly of his strong love and attachment to them.

On Friday morning he ate a little breakfast, later the doctor called and found him gradually weakening. Stimulants were administered and the doctor left him in charge of his colored nurse, Henry Riley. The doctor had been gone but a little while when Riley discovered that Mr. Allen could not live but a little while. The Colonel must have felt so himself, for when he raised up out of his chair he extended his hand to Riley and told him good-bye. His daughter Mary, who was at the hotel, was then called into the room, and her father placed his hand upon her head and passed to her a few words of affectionate adieu. Others in the room were Mr. R. S. Skillman and Dr. A. M. Kincheloe. To each one Col. Allen extended his hand and bade them good-bye. He expired at 11:25.

To undertake here to give an extended account of Col. Allen's life can hardly expected. A man who has for so many years been in public lite, both as politician and lawyer, must, in order to do him justice, require a more extended notice than we feel able to give. Col. Allen was born in Hardinsburg in 1814. His father, Joseph Allen, was for many years clerk of the county court, and a very good lawyer besides. It was under him that the Colonel received that scholarly training which fitted him in after years to discharge the public trusts committed to his care. He served in

the Legislature in 1839, and was afterwards Commonwealth's Attorney. He was appointed to this office in 1840 by Gov. James Clark. He held it by appointment until 1851, when under the then new constitution he was elected to the office. It was about this time that the celebrated Ward trial came up at Elizabethtown. Judge Kincheloe was then on the bench. It is said that the Colonel's speech in this case was, perhaps, the ablest effort of his life, and it won him great fame as an advocate at the bar. He was elected to represent Hancock and Breckenridge counties in the Legislature in 1839. In 1859 he made the race for Lieutenant Governor of the State, but was defeated. He was re-elected to the Legislature again in 1861. About this time the civil war came on, and he became at once an earnest worker for the Union cause in the State. He was associated with such men as James Speed, John M. Harlan, Joseph Holt and others prominent in public affairs at that time. In 1866 he was appointed State Treasurer, and held the office about two years. He was then appointed Consul to China by President Johnson, and remained abroad until 1869, when he was re-called by President Grant. Returning to Louisville he gave up public life and again resumed the practice of law. He came to Hardinsburg to live in 1878, and made this his home up to his death. In 1880 he united with the Methodist Church South, and ever afterwards lived a consistent Christian life. After a long and useful public career he died at the age of 78.

He developed a strong religious faith, which leaves its impression on his friends.

In 1880 he wrote the following lines, which manifest his deep appreciation of the plan of salvation through Christ.

God loveth thee, sinner, He came from on high,
"The desire of all nations," for you came to die.
He left His bright home in the kingdom of rest,
That you might inherit the crown of the blest.

From the throne of His Father down hither
He came,
For you he encountered toll, peril and shame;
For you healed the leper, for you stilled the
storm,
For you walked the waters – raised the cold, dead
form.
For your sins, climbed He, the cruel mount'n
side,
From its crest poured His blood in a hot crimson
tide;
On the dark, rugged cross with an agonized cry,
Bly the side of a thief for you He did die.

And will you reject Him – poor worm of the
Dust?
Will you slight his great love, nor in it place
trust?
Will you pierce once again the heart that loves
you,
By rejecting such love, so fond, great and true?
Oh, God, spire and pity the obdurate one.
Who contemneth thy love and all it hath done –
Who laugheth in scorn .it Gethsemane's tears,
And the blood which in mercy on Calvary appears.

Strike the heart of the sinner with thy merciful
rod,
Make it gush forth in streams of love unto God!
Strike from him his shackles, set captivity free,
Put new songs in his mouth, even praises to
thee.

[Note: Col. Alfred Allen gave the welcome address at the Breckinridge County Centennial in Hardinsburg, KY, on 2 November 1882. See “The Centennial”, Breckinridge News, Cloverport, KY, 8 November 1882 p.2; and “Breckinridge County, KY Centennial Celebration”, West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy, by Jerry Long, <https://wckyhistory-genealogy.org/kentucky-records/>, 2024.]



**Kentucky Register, Kentucky Historical Society,
Frankfort, KY, Vol. 43, October 1945, pp.345-350:**

CAPTAIN JOSEPH ALLEN

County Clerk and Circuit Clerk of Breckenridge County for 58
years. Captain in two campaigns in the War of 1812.
Twice refused to become a Colonel.

By MARY ALLEN GOODSON

Joseph Allen's paternal grand-father was James Allen of Scotland and of the Presbyterian faith. Living as he did in times of religious persecution, he made very appropriate the family motto, "They fight valiantly for the Cross." Persecution continued with such violence that for the sake of their religion and safety of their families, finally, the Scotch in large numbers, including James Allen, moved to the north of Ireland. Here political agitation went on, and James Allen was killed in a riot. A son born in Ireland, was named James, and when a lad, came to America with his mother and other children of the family. They eventually settled in Augusta County, Virginia. James established his home on Kerr's Creek when he married Mary Kelsey. He fought in the Revolutionary War. In 1779 he sold his abundant land on Kerr's Creek that he might seek richer lands of the cane-brake and blue grass of Kentucky. Joseph was five years old when James Allen and his wife Mary and several children started with Dougherty's Station near Danville, as their destination.

In order to talk over things that had happened in Virginia and Kentucky since they had seen each other, and to refresh themselves for the last lap of their toilsome journey, they stopped for a few days with their friend Benj. Logan at St. Asaphs. They reached Dougherty's Station on Clark's Run in due time, and settled down to live in a fort, as best they could, with its crowded condition, but also with its security from Indian attacks, which was of great importance at that time. They lived at Dougherty's Station several months and, tiring of life in a fort James Allen and his friend Joseph Daviess built two log cabins with a block-house between, further up Clark's Run. Here the two families enjoyed the freedom of home and found congeniality in each other. After three years, James Allen bought a large body of land in what became Nelson County, and here he lived the remainder of his life.

The children of James Allen and his wife Mary Kelsey are:

1. Sarah Allen, who married William Singleton. Their three children were sons, Allen and Stanley, and daughter, Mary. Allen was the father of Dr. William Singleton who was physician and surgeon of the Third Kentucky Union Cavalry. He is buried in Hardinsburg, Ky. Sarah married, second, Andrew Rowan, her neighbor in Nelson County. Their children: Joseph Allen and Eliza. Joseph Allen Rowan died shortly after finishing his course at West Point. He is buried with his parents at Old Kentucky Home.
2. John Allen, brilliant lawyer, married Jane Logan, daughter of Col. Benjamin Logan. They lived first at Shelbyville, then Frankfort. He was Colonel in the War of 1812 and was killed in battle at the River Raisin. His body was never recovered.
3. Joseph Allen, the subject of this sketch, married Margaret Crawford of Botetourt County, Va. He was in two campaigns of the War of 1812, as Captain and twice refused to accept the Colonelcy. They lived until old age beloved by those about them with whom they helped to establish their loved town and county, Hardinsburg and the county of Breckenridge.
4. Margaret Allen married Joseph Huston, lawyer. They lived in Nelson County, and Hardins Fort. He died shortly after serving in the legislature in 1815. She carried on her business affairs in a splendid way. Also she left the manuscript of a history of Kentucky.

EARLY EDUCATION

Indian disturbances interrupted efforts made to give children an education, but the parents of Joseph Allen had taken advantage of schools in the valley of Virginia and were prepared to help them toward a good foundation.

Their sons nearing young manhood were fortunate in being near Bardstown, where they studied law under Mr. Shackelford, an educated Virginia gentleman, who also with his teaching, gave them the advantage of the knowledge of rudiments of Greek and Latin. Completing his law course, the subject of this sketch went to Hardins Fort to settle in what was to be Breckenridge County. With him went Joseph Huston who had married Margaret Allen, his sister. The fort was not only a place of protection from Indians, but it had splendid natural conveniences viz: a fine ever flowing spring, and a cave in which to keep meat, both conveniently near. Joseph Allen said this was the most beautiful spot he had ever seen, with great forest trees, its many streams, and the ground covered with luxuriant pea-vine through which a wounded deer could be traced. Withall it was a Hunter's Paradise. Breckenridge County was taken from Hardin County and established in 1799. Six months after this, Joseph Allen became both county clerk and circuit clerk, holding both offices for fifty-eight years. (We wonder if another county official has made such a record.) William Hardin had established Hardin 's Fort April 20, 1780 and the fort and town of Hardinsburg were named for him while Hardin County was named for Col. John Hardin. When the town of Hardinsburg was laid out in town lots, the surveying done by Joseph Allen was most important. Before and after incorporating the town in .1800, homes were being built and there was need for a school. It was Joseph Allen who, as school trustee, sold a large body of land, that the proceeds might go for building a school house for the county. From the time the school opened it was his custom to visit it each Friday afternoon, at which time he heard oral reviews of the week's lessons, and saw the children "turn down" and "go head." As homes were being built, Joseph Allen began to think it was time to have one for himself so, in 1803 he married Margaret Crawford, her father, Samuel Crawford, having come a few years before, and had bought land on what became the line of Breckenridge County and Ohio County. "Peggy," as she was called, inherited substantial

qualities from her parents. Samuel Crawford was a valued citizen with the community interests and the country's at heart. He was in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. She had learned the ways of a thrifty house-wife from her mother, as no one had higher piles of woven coverlets, or greater jars of preserves, or cared for her flowering bushes more diligently than she. Their two story log house attracted attention because of its size, the panes of glass in its windows and the stairway. Many of the citizens were still living in cabins and their windows were covered with cloth, treated with bear grease; and a ladder was used in reaching the room above. The windows of this house had many small panes of glass and the tread to the stairway was narrow but it was an improvement that was being appreciated. Following the improvement in log houses, there came a period of building them of brick, but Joseph and Margaret Allen continued to live in the two story log house through life. The young husband was compelled to be away from home on dangerous trips, not only because Indians were troublesome, but horse thieves settled in Indiana and made excursions into Kentucky. It was young Allen who organized and led a band of Kentuckians and went to exterminate the settlement of the horse thieves, which they did by burning and breaking up everything. Upon his return to Hardinsburg he was asked what became of the leader of the gang to which he replied, "The last I saw of him was through the sight of my rifle." The governor of Indiana sent a body of soldiers to Hardinsburg to arrest Joseph Allen who rallied his men and made prisoners of the soldiers, and they then fraternized with their captors. Indian raids were still made, and in turning them back into their own country north of the Ohio, the deliberate courage and great strength of Joseph Allen enabled him to do effective fighting.

THE WAR OF 1812

He was captain of advanced guards in two campaigns of the War of 1812 and rendered such outstanding service, he was offered the colonelcy of a regiment, but refused. Again he was offered this promotion and again refused, giving as his reason—only men trained for military duties should have this office. He was splendidly qualified to give assistance to Kentucky historians, which he did most generously, but said little of himself and never allowed his picture to be used. In the first edition of *Collins History of Kentucky* he is listed as a contributor.

FIRST EVENTS OF THE NEW COUNTY

He had a part in early events of his part of the state. The first will recorded was that of Ruth Faith in 1799. She devised to her son 8 pounds, then our currency, which she owed him-53/4 lbs. of flax, 1 Dutch oven, 1 frying pan, and 1 striped cotton petticoat!

It was in May, 1800 that the first marriage licenses were issued to James Hambleton and Catharine Bruner, and to Samuel Hambleton and Mary Miller, the two Hambletons being brothers. The first congregation to be organized was Methodist, meeting in homes for services, then in the log court-house. The second church group was Roman Catholic that built a church at once after organizing. Nor did Joseph Allen miss the first shows. One was a single monkey, another an elephant and the third a lion.

The oldest known deed on record in Breckenridge County is between William Hardin founder of Hardin 's Fort and Joseph Allen. It is dated May, 1804, and records that William Hardin deeded 7 1/2 acres of land near Hardinsburg to Joseph Allen.

There is another record of interest as follows: He and a friend were walking together one Sunday afternoon and the friend carried a rifle. A rabbit crossed their path, the gun was fired and the rabbit killed. Monday morning the friend was fined in court for desecrating the Sabbath. Joseph Allen was acting judge of the court, and immediately fined himself for being an accessory in the

act of desecration of the Sabbath. In the Courier-Journal's column, "By-gone Days," was an incident that also related to him and the Sabbath. He was attending to what he considered necessary duties on the Sabbath. His sister said, "Brother Joseph, you are wasting the Lord's time." He replied, "If I was as rich as the Lord I wouldn't worry about anybody using a little of my time."

Jo Allen (as he always wrote his name) was always opposed to doing those things that might lead him into public life. He was urged to run for different offices in his state for which he was well qualified, but it was distasteful to him. Thos. Marshall Green in his, "Historic Families of Kentucky" says of him: "Albeit a leader in all public affairs, a good lawyer, an electric speaker, personally greatly beloved, and in every way singularly qualified for public duties, Jo Allen resolutely turned his back upon every proposition to enter public life."

Through the fifty eight years in the offices of county clerk and circuit clerk he took deputies who wanted to study law and directed their study. He also required every young kinsman to study Blackstone, feeling it was necessary whatever the future vocation might be.

The children of Jo Allen and his wife Peggy were:

1. Jane who married John McClarty an early merchant of Hardinsburg. Their children followed them in integrity and made for themselves places of influence that were felt.
2. Horace married Elizabeth Lane, of the county by the same name. Having the training given by his father he was to become county clerk of another county when he was stricken and died, leaving a young widow and two small children, Mary L. and Joseph D. The civic and religious life of Louisville was richer because the two were there so many years.
3. Mary married Frances Peyton, a fine lawyer, who when elected to the legislature presented a bill that became a Kentucky law, allowing wives to own property in their own right instead of their husband's. She was a distinctive part of her community.
4. Ellen married Dr. Benj. Wathen who by his profession and fine character, was highly esteemed in his community, and others of his name followed in his work of relieving the stricken, and like him, were an honor to his worthy profession. Both were worthy as true citizens of Breckenridge County
5. Alfred, lawyer, married the beautiful daughter of Jefferson Jennings. He was a member of the legislature at two different periods comprising several years, and was commonwealth attorney at the time of the trial of Mat Ward for the killing of W. H. G. Butter in 1853. He was state treasurer and resigned to become Consul to China. He practiced law in Hardinsburg, his home.

All of the children are buried in Breckenridge County, and all except one, with their parents are buried in the Hardinsburg Cemetery. A single shaft marks the last resting place of Jo Allen and Peggy, his wife, and the inscription is as follows:

Capt. Jo Allen
Born Aug. 20, 1774
Died April 28, 1862

Margaret Allen
Born Feb. 4, 1779
Died Feb. 20, 1862

Man and wife 59 years

A brave soldier, faithful citizen, true friend.
The model wife, mother and neighbor.

An existing portrait of Joseph Allen, made late in his rich full life, may be described in the words of a Kentucky historian who said of him: "He had a vigorous intellect, benevolence, racy humor and utter fearlessness," which are shown in the steady blue eyes, the firm mouth and the expression of the kindly face of the portrait of Joseph Allen.

REFERENCES:

History of Kentucky—Collins.
Historic Families of Kentucky—Thos. Marshall Green.
Volunteer Officers and Soldiers of Kentucky in the War of 1812—Sam Hill A1jutant
General of Kentucky.
Kentucky, Pioneer State of the West—Thos. Crittenden Cherry.
Records—War Dept. Adj. General's Office, Washington, D. C.
Records—Breckenridge County.
Nelson County—grave markers.
Breckenridge County—grave markers.
Family Bibles of James Allen and Alfred Allen.



Breckenridge County, KY Will Book 1, pp.291-292:

As human life is uncertain, I make this my last will and testament s follows, towit: Should I died before my wife, it is my wish that she shall have, use and enjoy, all our estate both real and personal, during her natural life, except such part as is herein hereafter specially devised.

I have heretofore given to my children property & c. without keeping any account of the amount given, But with a wish to give them as nearly equal as I conveniently could, and therefore what I have given to any of them, I desire them to have without accounting for the same.

I give to my grandson Jo A. Peyton a strip of land, towit. All the land I own south of the Stephensport road and below Rocky Run, which I hereby devise to him to his heirs or assigns, have. I promised to Francis Peyton about 10 acres of land on Hardins Creek at or near where he built a sawmill, which I wish him to have. All the rest & residue of my estate, which may remain after the death of my wife, I wish equally divided between my children and descendants of those that are dead, as follows, towit: To my son Alfred Allen, one fourth the part. To the children of my deceased daughter Jane McClarty, one fourth part. To my grandchildren Jo D. Allen and his sister Mary Piatt, one fourth part, to Mary Peyton one fourth part, And I have given to M Peyton her husband the possession of my Moor Spring farm, and I wish him to have the use and benefit of it during my life and the life of my wife without accounting for rents, and on a division of my estate it any daughter Mary to chooses to take that farm as part of my estate, she is at liberty to do so, and have it estimated to her as so much advanced to her at this time at what it is now reasonably worth without counting in what M Peyton may enhance the value by repairs & improvement.

As to old Dinah I request my children not to let her be shoved off among strangers, but kept among them & not permitted to suffer.

Jo Allen
August 1st, 1852

Jo Allen Peyton is repairing and improving the Moor Spring farm, it was vastly out of repair when he took it, and if a survey is not made of it, so as that I can fix a price on it, I wish Mr. J. Jennings & Nathan Beard or one of them to fix a price on it at what it is worth in 1852, before J. A. Peyton put any repairs on it we agreed on \$1000. Since writing the above I fix the value at \$1000, the price agreed on before Mr. Peyton improved it.

Since my son Alfred has been married I have given him \$100 in cash., a negro woman Louisa & her daughter Margaret which he is to account for on the division of my estate Louisa at \$350 & Margaret at \$400. Also I have purchased for him Keenan's house & lots & paid for the property \$920 which he is to account for as above.

Jo Allen

I let a small negro girl go with her mother to Alfred Allen, she was diseased and not worth much, him and his wife have doctored her and she is now cured and healthy, they have had the trouble of her, and if Alfred desires to keep her at \$100, which I think she was worth when they got her, her name is Cynthia.

Jo Allen

I have conveyed to Mary Peyton the Moor Spring farm to enable her to sell it, so that that devise is discharged, she is to account for it at \$1000 this 31st day of Dec'r 1858.

Jo Allen

Kentucky, Breckinridge County Court, Sct:

Called term April 26th 1862

At a County Court called and held in and for the County of Breckinridge on Saturday the twenty sixth day of April 1862, A writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Joseph Allen deceased, was exhibited in Court and duly proven by the oath of Jesse W. Kincheloe and Jefferson Jennings. Who severally swore that they were well acquainted with hand writing of him and the said Joseph Allen deceased, and that they had frequently seen him write, and that the whole of the writing or will was in the hand writing of said Joseph Allen dec'd as they verily believed, and thereupon the same is ordered to be recorded.

George W. Joly, Deputy
For Gideon P. Jolly, Clerk
Breckinridge County Court

[Note: The 1850 Federal Census Slave Schedule for Breckinridge County, KY records that Joseph Allen was the owner of twelve slaves. The 1860 Federal Census Slave Schedule for Breckinridge County, KY shows his as the owner of seven slaves.]



Outline of the family of Joseph Allen & Margaret Crawford

By Jerry Long

Joseph Allen, son of James Allen & Mary Kelsey, was born 20 August 1774 in Augusta County, Virginia. In 1779 came to Kentucky with his parents. He was a resident of Breckinridge County, KY upon its formation from Hardin County in 1799. He is listed in the 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850 and 1860 federal censuses of Breckinridge County. He married Margaret Crawford on 11 June 1803. The daughter of Samuel Crawford & Janet Mason, Margaret, was born in Botetourt

County, Virginia on 4 February 1779. Joseph Allen died on 28 April 1862 in Hardinsburg, Breckinridge County, KY. Margaret Allen died in Hardinsburg on 20 February 1862. He was survived by one son and nineteen grandchildren. Joseph & Margaret were buried in the Old Hardinsburg Cemetery, Hardinsburg, KY. Joseph & Margaret had five children –

1. Jane M. Allen was born 1 January 1804 in Breckinridge County, KY. She married John McClarty on 22 March 1821. He was the son of John McClarty, Sr. & Nancy Huston. John (Jr.) was born c1797 in Nelson County, KY and died during 1860-1863. Jane Allen McCarty died 4 February 1847 Breckinridge County, KY, where she was buried in the Old Hardinsburg Cemetery. She had nine children –
 - Joseph Allen (c.1824-?1874) single;
 - Samuel (1828-1889), married Mary Moreland (1834-1870), children: Jane Allen, Annie, Hugh, Pattie Simmons & Mary);
 - Margaret A. (1828-1874), married Robert Ligget Boyd (1828-1884), children: Joseph Allen, Charles L., Henry D. Knox, Mary Letitia;
 - Clinton (1831-1894), married Cecelia Wallace Conway (1835-1856) & Lucinda Beall Elliott (1838-1901), children by first wife: Bettie; children by second wife: Cecelia, Clinton C. & Anna;
 - Letitia Nancy (1836-1919), single;
 - Cyrus (1838-1890), married Sarah Elizabeth Bell (1847-1897), children: Atreus Bell, Jessie Crawford & Norah;
 - Mary Ellen (1840-1919), married Henry Peyton Hart (1824-1873), children: Lettie, John, Susan Peyton & Henry Singleton;
 - Crawford (c1843-1889), single;
 - Francis H. (c1846-1875)
2. Horace Allen was born 12 August 1806 in Breckinridge County, KY. He married Elizabeth Ann Larue (1811-after 1870), 24 July 1827 Hardin County, KY. Horace died on 14 February 1832 and was buried in the Old Hardinsburg Cemetery in Hardinsburg, KY. Children –
 - Mary Letitia (1829-1918), married William Piatt (1810-1894), children: Bettie D., Joseph Allen, Katie Daniel, Horace Allen, Mamie D., Mary Peyton, Edward Pane & Edith;
 - Joseph David (c1831-1902), married Parmelia Dickson (1835-1907), children: Annie D. & William Glover
3. Mary Allen was born 27 June 1809 in Breckinridge County, KY. She married Francis Peyton on 21 April 1827. Francis, son of Francis Peyton & Sarah West, was born c1800 and died 15 October 1852 Breckinridge County, KY, Mary Allen Peyton died 17 April 1862 Breckinridge County, KY. She and Francis Peyton were buried in the Old Hardinsburg Cemetery in Hardinsburg, KY. Children –
 - Joseph Allen (c1828-1882), married Serepta Jane Willett, children: Francis Logan, Mary Elizabeth, Mackfield Willett, Laura, Gillien C. & Margaret A.;
 - Cornelia (1830-1868), married David Cox Gannaway (1826-1895), children: Mary Ann, Malcolm, Francis Peyton, Robert Boyd, Joseph David, William Cox & Alfred Norton;

- Margaret S. (1834-1882), married James D. Morton (1831-1863) & George Eugene Lewis Chick (1834-1908), children by first marriage: Francis Peyton, Will S., Mary D. & Davis Morton, children by second marriage: Louisa Perry Chick;
 - Ellen Jane (c1837-1859), married George Eugene Lewis Chick, children: Ellen Peyton;
 - Alfred H. (1843-1907), married Sue H. Geoghegan (c1844-), children: Ambrose C., Maggie M., Preston Scott, Whartie F., & Annie H.;
 - Francis West (1849-1924), married Margaret Emily McQuown (1855-1941), children: Mary Evelyn Allen, James McQuown, George Thomas, Margaret Frances;
 - Henry died young
4. Ellen J. Allen was born 15 November 1811 in Breckinridge County, KY. She married Benedict Wathen (1801-1879) in 1828. Ellen died on 5 May 1837 and was buried in the Old Hardinsburg Cemetery in Hardinsburg, KY. Children –
- Mary Ellen (1829-1847), single.
 - Amelia Behethland (1834-1838)
 - Thomas Henry (1836-1838)
5. Alfred Allen was born on 25 September 1814 in Hardinsburg, Breckinridge County, KY. He married Mary Ellen Jennings on 29 June 1853 in Breckinridge County, KY. Mary Ellen was the daughter of Jefferson Jennings & Mary Jane Allen, She was born in Breckinridge County, KY on 8 March 1831 and died in Hardinsburg, KY on 2 April 1865. Alfred Allen died on 9 April 1892 in Hardinsburg, Breckinridge County, KY. He, his wife and four infant children were buried in the Old Hardinsburg Cemetery, in Hardinsburg, KY. Children –
- Stuart (1855-1866);
 - Anna Green (1856-1862);
 - Graham (1859-1859);
 - Jennings (1860-1860);
 - Horace (1861-1955), married Eleanor Fullerton (1862-1923), children: Horace A.
 - Mary Eliza (1865-1961), married Edward Fletcher Goodson (1865-1944), children: Mary Allen, Charles Peck, Edward Fletcher, Jr., & Alfred Allen

