



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**ALLEN FAMILY PAPERS, Addition  
1834-1942**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Allen Family Papers Addition, 1834-1942, is centered around the Allen, Henegar, and Lea families, including Valentine Collins Allen III, Valentine C. Allen IV, Nicholas Q. Allen, Robert Lafayette Allen, Jennie Allen, and William B. Allen of Rhea, Polk, and Meigs counties, Tennessee.

The papers occupy .96 cubic feet of shelf space, and number approximately 790 items. Single copies of unpublished writings in the Allen Family Papers Addition may be made for the purposes of scholarly research.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

### Valentine Collins Allen IV

Valentine Collins Allen IV was born in Tippah County, Mississippi, on September 2, 1842. He had seven brothers and one sister. After the Civil War, he practiced law in Decatur, Tennessee. On February 13, 1866, Allen married Miss Nancy Emily Ling of Meigs County, Tennessee, daughter of Dr. King of Decatur, and niece of Col. N.J. and Jim Lillard. In 1887, Allen and his wife moved to Dayton, Rhea County, Tennessee. He was active in local affairs, practicing as an attorney in Dayton, Rhea County, Tennessee.

V. C. Allen served in the Tennessee Legislature in 1871 but declined to run for re-election. In 1911, he was appointed by the Governor, as Chancellor of the 12th District Chancery Court. This district was comprised of fifteen counties. In 1912, he was elected to this position without opposition.

Allen wrote a book titled, *Rhea And Meigs Counties, Tennessee, In The Confederate War*. Copies of this book are located in the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Allen and his wife, Nancy, had five children: Fannie, Jennie, Ann, Will, and Maude. Fannie married Nicholas Broyles; Ann married Floyd Cunyngham; Billy (Will) married Lucy Henegar; and Maude, the youngest, married Walter Haywood Worth. Daughter Jennie never married.

### William B. Allen

William B. Allen was born on June 5, 1869 in Decatur, Tennessee, the son of Valentine C. and Nancy Emily (King) Allen. William B. Allen was educated in Decatur, Tennessee. He moved to Dayton, Tennessee, in September 1886. After relocating in Dayton he began working at the Dayton City Bank as a teller. He was elected cashier in April of 1889, and remained cashier of the Dayton City Bank and the First National Bank of Dayton for about five years. Later he accepted a position as book-keeper with Dayton Coal and Iron Company,

William B. Allen, continued:

Ltd. While employed at the coal and iron company he was appointed Circuit Court Clerk by Judge Smallman in October 1899, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Charles G. Gillespie. He was nominated by the Democratic Convention to succeed himself in the spring of 1900, and was elected in the August general election. He was again nominated, and reelected for a full term of four years, without opposition in 1902.

William Allen was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and was a Knight of Pythias. He was twice elected Chancellor Commander of Hope Lodge #27. He also held the position of deputy Grand Chancellor. Governor McMillan said of Mr. Allen, "...as clerk of the court Mr. Allen was pronounced the best on his circuit. He was efficient, courteous, and accommodating. As a candidate he was a Democrat, but as an official he knows no party, sect, creed, or condition in the discharge of his duty."

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Allen Family Papers Addition, 1834-1942, is composed of accounts, account books, cards, certificates, clippings, correspondence, financial documents, forms, invitations, land records, deeds, grants, indentures, legal documents, agreements, contracts, letters of administration, letters testamentary, power of attorney, statements of expenditures, a settlement of estate, a letter of introduction, licenses, memorabilia, notes, notices, photographs, printed materials, reports, and biographical sketches.

The bulk of this collection is comprised of deeds and grants belonging to Valentine Collins Allen (1842-1915), Chancellor of Rhea County Chancery Court, and his son William B. Allen (1899-n.d.), Clerk and Master of the Rhea County Circuit Court. A few of the land records involve other family members such as H. B. Henegar and F. W. Lea. The deeds are tracts and parcels located in Bledsoe (1907-1908), Blount (1889), Bradley (1877), Meigs (1886), Rhea (1887-1911), Hawkins (1834), counties, Tennessee, and the Ocoee District (1849-1853) in Tennessee. The grants describe tracts and parcels granted by the State of Tennessee to Francis W. Lea. These grants are primarily in Polk County, Tennessee with sections located in Bradley County, Tennessee.

The correspondence is mostly from family members, friends, and professional colleagues. A majority of the family correspondence is comprised of letters from Jennie Allen, Lucy Cunnyngham Downer, John M. Lea, and Edward Henegar.

Included in the collection is the settlement of the estate of Miss Jennie K. Allen (1943-1947). William B. Allen was the executor of the estate. Miss Jennie was the sister of Will B. Allen and resided with him before her death. The settlement includes real estate, stocks and bonds, mortgages, jointly owned property and household property. There are several pieces of correspondence concerning the settlement.

There is a letter of introduction dated Feb. 1, 1874, for V.C. Allen, signed by Judge John B. Hoyl, Judge of the 4th Judicial Circuit in the State of Tennessee, D.M. Key, Chancellor of the Third Chancery Division in the State of Tennessee, and J. A. Frazier, Attorney General of the Fourth Circuit of Tennessee.

There are several maps in the collection spanning the years 1858-1914. Many of these maps show lands granted in Polk County, Tennessee and Bradley County, Tennessee. A pencil map of Charleston, Tennessee (June 19, 1914) is included in the collection as well as a 1858 map of the Copper Lands in Carroll County, Virginia.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box 1

1. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts-V.C. Allen, 1885
2. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts-V.C. Allen, corporation tax, Cooke County, Texas, 1874
3. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts-W. B. Allen, executor of the estate of V.C. Allen, 1920-1928
4. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts--H. B. Henegar, 1876-1917
5. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts-Keystone Lodge No.35- Knights of Pythias, 1932
6. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts-F.W. Lea, 1846
7. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts-heirs of F.W. and W. P. Lea, 1894
8. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts-Polk County tax receipt, 1891
9. Accounts--Bills, notes, and receipts-M. Wilkey, Rhea County, Tenn., 1900
10. Account books--F. W. Lea-Land Grants, 1858
11. Associations, institutions, etc.--German Coach Horse Association-W.B. Allen, 1911
12. Cards--Greeting
13. Certificates--Election-W.B. Allen, 1906
14. Certificates--Stocks-The Hot Water Mining Company of Tennessee, 1884
15. Clippings--Allen family, Rhea County
16. Clippings--Bryan University, June 21, 1942
17. Correspondence--Authors unknown, n.d.
18. Correspondence--W. B. Allen-to the voters of Rhea County, Tennessee
19. Correspondence--Allen, Jane K.(Jennie)-Allison, Robert G.
20. Correspondence--Barnard, James-Byrer C.W.
21. Correspondence--Carson, J.L.-Crisman, B.A.
22. Correspondence--DeBord, Norman S.-Downer, Lucy Cunnyingham
23. Correspondence--Embrey, T.A.-Gwaltney, L.R.
24. Correspondence--Hammond,W. H.-Huston, E.
25. Correspondence--Ivins, Richard-Osterloh, Mrs. Robert H.
26. Correspondence--Pope, Lewis S.-Sutherland, R.K.
27. Correspondence--Tallett, E. G.-Wright, Ruth K.
28. Financial Documents--Canceled checks-German Coach Horse Association, 1910
29. Financial Documents--Canceled checks-H. B. Henegar, Bank of Charleston, Tennessee, 1887
30. Financial Documents--Promissory notes-Calvin Henegar, 1850
31. Forms--Dept. of Commerce-Marriages annulled, 1930
32. Invitations, 1913-1950

## **Box 2**

1. Land Records--Deeds-Bledsoe County, Tennessee, American National Bank, J.P. England, trustee, 1907-1908
2. Land Records--Deeds-Blount County, Tennessee, July 19, 1889
3. Land Records--Deeds-Lea, Emma to Henegar, H.B., 1877
4. Land Records--Deeds-Meigs County, Tennessee, V.C. Allen, 1886
5. Land Records--Grants-Ocoee District, Barnard, James, 1849-1853
6. Land Records--Deeds-Rhea County, Tennessee-Abel, Mrs. Emma, 1911
7. Land Records--Deeds-Rhea County, Tennessee-Allen, R.L. and V.C., 1887
8. Land Records--Deeds-Rhea County, Tennessee-Allen, V.C., 1887-1892
9. Land Records--Deeds-Rhea County, Tennessee-England, J.P., trustee, American National Bank, 1905-1911
10. Land Records--Grants-Barr, Peter, Hawkins County, Tennessee, 1834
11. Land Records--Grants-Lea, Francis W., Polk County, Tennessee, 1842-1859
12. Land Records--Indentures-Lea, Francis W. and Dodd, Barry, 1850
13. Legal Documents--Agreements, 1891-1906
14. Legal Documents--Agreements-the heirs of Francis W. Lea and Clarke and Wilson, 1889
15. Legal Documents--Contract, Lumber-Rhea County, Tennessee-Morgan, Swafford and Abel, 1906
16. Legal Documents--Letters of Administration, Allen, W.B., 1915
17. Legal Documents--Letters of Testamentary, Allen, W.B., 1915
18. Legal Documents--Power of Attorney-Barnard family, 1889
19. Legal Documents--Statement of expenditures-Stewart, T.L., 1934
20. Legal Documents--Settlement of Jennie Allen's estate, 1927-1947
21. Letters of Introduction--Allen, V.C., Feb. 1, 1874
22. Licenses--Law-Allen, V.C., Cooke County, Texas
23. Memorabilia
24. Notes--Allen, V.C.-Lea, James A.
25. Notices--Bankrupt sale-Dayton Coal and Iron Company, Ltd., 1916
26. Photographs, drawings, etc.--Unidentified children, n.d.
27. Printed Materials--Pamphlets-M.E. Church South, 1899-1914
28. Printed Materials--Statements-American National Bank, 1912
29. Reports--Assay, Henegar, H.B., 1896
30. Sketches--Biographical-Allen, Emily King, (1845-?)
31. Taxes--Rhea County, Tennessee tax script, 1889

## **Oversize Folder**

1. Maps--Copper Lands, Carroll County, Virginia, 1858
2. Maps--Surveyors' Map, Bradley County, Tennessee
3. Maps--Range 4 East
4. Maps--Pencil Map of Ocoee Land District
5. Maps--H.H. White, Surveyors' Map
6. Maps--Land Grant, Polk County, Tennessee
7. Maps--Memorandum of land near Thomas Russell, Springtown, Tennessee
8. Maps--Pencil map of Charleston, Tennessee, June 10, 1914