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Thomas Allen of North Carolina and Virginia: Mystery Solved

By
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Thomas Allen died before his time—as did his father before him—leaving a genealogical trail that was difficult to follow; but the right combination of rare source materials reveals his true origins.

When Thomas Allen died in Smyth County, Virginia, on the first day of February in 1843,¹ he left behind a shadowy past which has fascinated many of his descendants and baffled an equal number of genealogical researchers. Both have often come to incorrect conclusions, resulting in internet sources rife with false information and numerous personal genealogical databases that are highly inaccurate. Some websites, including one of the best-known genealogical research sites in the world, house submitted genealogies that claim this Thomas Allen married a woman named Nancy Foster and later died in Mississippi or Alabama in the 1870s.² Yet other submitted genealogies declare that Thomas Allen was the son of John Sims Earl.³ One particular online genealogy even

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¹ Robert Batey Allen family bible. *Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testament Translated out of the Original Tongues; and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised* (New York: American Bible Soc., 1854); in possession of the author. The provenance of the family Bible is well established. It was shown to the author in the late 1970s by Ruby Elizabeth Allen (1911–1995), a granddaughter of Robert B. Allen through his son, Ferd J. Allen. She inherited the family home where Robert B. Allen lived from at least 1871–1896. Ruby Allen gave the bible to Martha Copenhaver of Marion and, after Miss Allen's death, Copenhaver presented the bible to the author in person. For digital image see http://allenfamilyarchives.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/robert_b_allen_family_bible_1854.pdf

² Thomas Allen pedigree, *Ancestry.com* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/14815179/person/247277471>).

³ *Ibid.*, (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/14590600/person/130599884>).

states that Thomas was the son of Robert and the grandson of Peter Allen.⁴ Each of these submitted genealogies includes enough identifying information that it is obvious they refer to the same Thomas Allen. No doubt many researchers have simply constructed their own pedigrees by piggybacking on earlier submissions, thereby perpetuating the same stories without bothering to verify their accuracy. Still, these online pedigrees share one common trait—they are all *erroneous*. This article is intended to set the record straight concerning both his parentage and his progeny.

Most of Thomas Allen's story can only be pieced together from indirect evidence. Born before birth records were kept, Allen died before deaths were recorded. Had he enjoyed a normal lifespan, his death and the names of his parents would likely have been recorded in Smyth County.⁵ But he didn't. Thomas Allen was just two days short of his forty-sixth birthday when he died in 1843.⁶ Consequently, there is no document tucked away in some dusty courthouse vault that proclaims the names of Allen's parents and the place of his birth. For that information, we must look elsewhere.

WHAT THE PUBLIC RECORDS SHOW

Thomas Allen was a farmer, a common occupation in early nineteenth-century rural Virginia.⁷ He was appointed the overseer of several roads, including the Blue Spring Road from Staley's Creek to the courthouse in Marion in 1832, and the road from Seven Mile Ford to the point that it "turns off to Thomas Mill."⁸ On 22 May 1834 he was licensed to keep an ordinary in his home at Seven Mile Ford, west of Marion, "for the purpose of lodging travelers and providing private entertainment." When it granted the license the court noted that it was "satisfied that the said Thomas Allen is a man of good character, not addicted to drunkenness or gaming."⁹ The license was one that he renewed at the beginning of the court's May term in 1835, 1836, 1837, and as late as 1841.¹⁰ Allen also served as the postmaster of Seven Mile Ford from 3 May 1834 until his death in

⁴ Representative Thomas Allen pedigree, *Ancestry.com* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/558578/person/1484355896>).

⁵ Smyth County was created in 1832 from portions of Washington and Wythe counties.

⁶ Transcription of portions of John and Fannie Earl family bible, in papers of Lucy B. Geoghegan, now deceased, of Bardstown, Kentucky, digital copy of transcription in possession of the author provided to him by Rick Waggener in 2012. Bible noted to be in the possession of J. N. Brown of Denton, Texas, when info copied by Lucy. Thomas Allen's date of birth given as 3 February 1798.

⁷ 1840 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth County, p. 382; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>). Thomas Allen household, showing 21 individuals engaged in agricultural work.

⁸ Smyth County Order Book 1, p. 25; Order Book 2, p. 39, Clerk's Office, Marion.

⁹ Smyth County Order Book 2, p. 85, Clerk's Office, Marion.

¹⁰ Smyth County Order Book 2, p. 224, Order Book 3, p. 43, 219, Order Book 5, p. 33, Clerk's Office, Marion.

1843.¹¹ His annual compensation as postmaster in 1835 was \$37.24,¹² by 1843 it had increased to \$46.09.¹³ In the 1838 tax list for Smyth County, at about forty years of age, he was listed as Maj. Thomas Allen—no record of any military service has been found.¹⁴

Records also show that Allen was no stranger to the courtroom. He regularly appeared in court suits filed in Smyth County, either suing individuals or the target of lawsuits filed by others. At one point, he even sued his own step-son over a \$50 debt from January 1834, which had not been repaid as of the date of the suit in July 1841.¹⁵ In another case, in 1838, he and his wife sued the other heirs of John Snider over property distributed prior to Snider's death. The Allens received a total settlement of \$118 from the case.¹⁶

Dying intestate,¹⁷ Allen left no will naming his widow and children, or any surviving parents. Nonetheless, thanks to a surviving family bible now in the possession of the author, some crucial facts can be gleaned about Thomas Allen. The bible, belonged to Allen's son, Robert Batey Allen, the author's great-great-grandfather.¹⁸ In it, Robert B. Allen carefully recorded his parents' marriage date, their death dates, and other pertinent information about his siblings, half-siblings, and his own children.

According to the 1854 bible, Thomas Allen was married on 11 January 1821 to Elythabeth Crow. Despite extensive research, no formal record of the marriage has been located in Smyth County or surrounding localities in Virginia and western North Carolina. The bible record includes the names of two children, assumed to be the children of Elizabeth from a previous marriage: John Harvey Crow, described as "the son of John Mackey Crow and Elythabeth his wife,"

¹¹ "Postmaster Finder" *United States Postal Service* (<http://webpmt.usps.gov/>).

¹² William A. Weaver, *Register of all Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval, in the Service of the United States on the Thirtieth of September, 1835* (Washington, D.C.: Blair & Rives, 1835), 150.

¹³ *Register of all Officers and Agents, Civil, Military, and Naval, in the Service of the United States on the Thirtieth of September 1841, to the Thirtieth of September 1843* (Washington, D. C.: J. & G.S. Gideon, 1843), 270.

¹⁴ Jeffrey C. Weaver, "1838 Smyth County (Virginia) Personal Property Tax List," *New River Notes* (<http://www.newriversnotes.com/>).

¹⁵ Also named in the lawsuit was Robert Thompson, the brother-in-law of John H. Crow, who surrendered Crow to the court and was dismissed from the case, *Thomas Allen for John M. Townsend v. John H. Crow*, Smyth County Order Book 5, pp. 56, 68, Clerk's Office, Marion.

¹⁶ Smyth County Order Book 1, pp. 45, 90, Clerk's Office, Marion.

¹⁷ Smyth County Will Book A, p. 327, Clerk's Office, Marion. Appraisal of the estate of Thomas Allen, deceased, filed 23 February 1843.

¹⁸ Robert Batey Allen family bible. *Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testament Translated out of the Original Tongues; and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised* (New York: American Bible Soc., 1854). See note 1 for provenance.

born 22 December 1812; and Jane Crow, born 2 July 1814.¹⁹ The relationship is further supported by guardianship bonds, dated 25 August 1827 and 15 July 1828, which name Thomas Allen as the legal guardian of John Harvey Crow and Jane Crow, “orphan[s] of John M. Crow, deceased.”²⁰

Elizabeth Crow Allen was the daughter of John Snider, a Revolutionary War soldier who died in Smyth County about 1836.²¹ Elizabeth’s father’s name is found in only one extant document, a copy of a legal advertisement published in the *Virginia Statesman*. The attached affidavit stated that it had been published for two months prior to 14 September 1839. The clipping states that John W. Davis, the administrator for John Snider, deceased, was the plaintiff in a lawsuit against, among others, “Thomas Allen and Elizabeth his wife, late Elizabeth Snider,” who were among those described as the “children, heirs & distributes of John Snider dec.”²²

WHAT ABOUT THOMAS ALLEN’S PARENTAGE?

The ancestry of Thomas Allen has long been in question, even among his direct descendants, who were removed from him by only a few generations. Ruby Elizabeth Allen (1911–1995) of Marion, the daughter of Ferd J. Allen and granddaughter of Robert B. Allen, informed the author in the late 1970s that her father had said Thomas Allen was from South Carolina. She knew nothing about Thomas’ parents’ names and only knew Elizabeth Allen’s married name of Crow from her grandfather’s bible records, which were then in her keeping.²³

A school notebook, now in the possession of the author, contains an essay written during the summer of 1926 at Radford State Teachers College in Virginia (now Radford University) by Alice Kate Allen (1887–1976). Kate was

¹⁹ Robert Batey Allen family bible. *Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testament Translated out of the Original Tongues; and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised* (New York: American Bible Soc., 1854). See note 1 for provenance.

²⁰ As part of a court action by Robert Thompson, his wife, Jane (Crow), and John H. Crow a summons was issued on 18 March 1841 for Thomas Allen and John M. Townsend. The details of the case have not survived, but since John M. Townsend was the co-signer of the guardianship bonds, it is likely the case related to Thomas Allen’s handling of the Crow children’s inheritance. Summons, Smyth County unbound records, Clerk’s Office, Marion. Guardian bonds, Washington County, unbound records, Clerk’s Office, Abingdon. For digital images see (summons): <http://allenfamilyarchives.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/crowsummons.jpg>; (bonds): <http://allenfamilyarchives.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/guardianship1.jpg> and <http://allenfamilyarchives.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/janecrowguardianship.jpg>.

²¹ John Snider died between 20 December 1832, when he filed a petition in Smyth County court to claim a pension for Revolutionary War service, and 14 October 1836, when the appraisal of his estate was recorded. Smyth County Order Book, pp. 124–5. Will Book A:74, Clerk’s Office, Marion.

²² Chancery Order Book 1, p. 164. *Joseph W. Davis, Administrator of John Snider, dec., vs. Snider Heirs*, Smyth County Chancery File 1844-004, Clerk’s Office, Marion. For digital image of clipping see <http://allenfamilyarchives.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/allenclipping.jpg>.

²³ Robert Batey Allen family bible.

the daughter of Michael Albert Allen, the third child of Robert B. Allen. In the essay, entitled “Historical Event That Has Led to My Existence,” Kate recounted scant details about her paternal great-grandparents, but did relate the family tradition that “Thomas Allen came from South Carolina.”²⁴

In point of fact, Allen *was* from Carolina, but *not* the southernmost one. Only Ruth Carolyn Allen (1904–1966), the older sister of Ruby and a long-time deputy clerk in the office of the Smyth County Clerk of Court, seemed to get it right. In a high school English essay entitled “Autobiography,” Ruth wrote on 27 September 1922: “My great-grandfather Allen was of English blood, he moved from North Carolina to Virginia when he was very young.”²⁵

Thomas Allen was, in fact, born on 1 February 1798 in Granville County, North Carolina.²⁶ He was the son of Samuel Allen Jr. and Frances “Fannie” Rice, who were married on 22 December 1796.²⁷ Samuel Jr. died intestate, prior to November 1801, when his estate inventory was filed by Samuel Allen Sr.²⁸ He left two children, Thomas and Elizabeth Allen. Thomas’s paternal grandfather, Samuel Sr., was named guardian of his grandchildren, Thomas and Elizabeth, on 3 February 1812. On 6 May 1813, following Samuel Sr.’s death, his son-in-law, John Jenkins, became the guardian for Thomas and Elizabeth. Records show that Jenkins oversaw the orphans’ financial matters and paid them an annual income from their inheritance.²⁹

²⁴ Bound school notebook containing essay written by Alice Kate Allen. Black notebook bears a printed label on front cover reading “State Teachers College, East Radford, Va.,” the hand-written name of the author, the notation “Orientation 1st quarter, Summer 1926.” Notebook is in the possession of the author.

²⁵ High school English essay written by Ruth Carolyn Allen, dated 27 September 1922. Document consists of three two-hole-punched sheets of loose leaf paper; text is handwritten in black ink. Document is in possession of the author.

²⁶ Transcription of portions of John and Fannie Earl family bible, in papers of Lucy B. Geoghegan, now deceased, of Bardstown, Kentucky, digital copy of transcription in possession of the author. See note 6 for provenance. Although called the Earl family bible, a portion of the transcribed records suggest that it was actually Samuel or Fanny’s bible. “Samuel Allen Jr. was born Jan. 14th 1774[;] Fanny Rice Allen was born March 26th 1775[;] We were married the 22nd day of December, 1796[;] Thomas Allen was born the 3rd of February 1798[;] Elizabeth Allen was born the 28 day of September, 1799.”

²⁷ *Ibid.* No marriage record on file in Granville County.

²⁸ Zae Hargett Gwynn, *Abstract of the Wills and Estate Records of Granville County, North Carolina, 1746–1808* (Rocky Mount, N.C.: Joseph W. Watson, 1973), 249 citing Will Book 5, pp. 175--176.

²⁹ Guardianship documents relating to Thomas and Elizabeth Allen, orphans of Samuel Allen Jr., 1813–1816, Granville County Wills, 1749–1968, CR.044.8011, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. See specifically guardianship document dated 3 Feb 1812 and administrator’s report of payment dated 7 Feb 1814 to Thomas and “Betsey” Allen signed by John Jenkins. All of Jenkins’ previous payment reports refer to Thomas and Elizabeth Allen. Only the one document calls Elizabeth “Betsey,” and it is the only one that specifically mentions Samuel Allen, deceased, as being a “Junior.” John Jenkins married the elder Allen’s daughter, Winifred, on 30 October 1809. Brent Holcomb, *Marriages of Granville County, North Carolina, 1753–1868*, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981), 183.

Samuel Allen Jr., born 14 January 1774,³⁰ was the son of Samuel Allen and Mary McAllister.³¹ Some researchers claim that Samuel Jr. was born in Granville County, but other sources give his birthplace as Virginia.³² A biographical sketch of Samuel Sr.'s son Zachariah Allen states that "Mr. Allen was born in Virginia, Jan. 4, 1773." and further notes

In his early childhood his parents moved to North Carolina and permanently settled in the northern part of Granville county, in the vicinity of Grassy Creek church, of which they were both worthy members—his father sustaining the office of deacon.³³

So when did Samuel Allen Sr. actually move to North Carolina? There was a Samuel Allen living in Granville County as early as 1786, according to extant tax lists from that year,³⁴ who is very likely the Samuel Allen in question, especially since this Allen lived in the same Ragland District up to and including the Granville County tax list of 1788.³⁵ Land grants on file in Granville County show that Allen was granted land there as early as 24 September 1779, when he acquired 640 acres on the waters of Michaels Creek. On the same day, Allen acquired 274 acres on the waters of Flat Creek. Then, in March of 1780, Allen acquired a further sixty acres along Flat Creek.³⁶

Little is known about Samuel Allen Sr.'s life in Granville County, except that he was a deacon in the Grassy Creek Baptist Church, specific dates unknown.³⁷ His son, Zachariah, was a long-time minister of the same church.³⁸ In his will, dated

³⁰ Transcription of portions of John and Fannie Earl family bible, in papers of Lucy B. Geoghegan, now deceased, of Bardstown, Kentucky, digital copy of transcription in possession of the author. See note 6 for provenance.

³¹ Robert I. Devins, *A History of Grassy Creek Baptist Church from its Foundation to 1800, with Biographical Sketches of its Pastors and Ministers* (Raleigh, N.C.: Edwards, Broughton & Co., 1880), 142. Zachariah Allen, the brother of Samuel Allen Jr., is described in this source as being "the son of Samuel and Mary Allen, who was Mary McCollister." Both Zachariah and Samuel Allen Jr. were named as children of Samuel Allen Sr. in his will. Granville County Estates, 1746–1958, CR.044.508.4, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. For digital image see <http://allenfamilyarchives.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/samuel-allen-sr-will-1812a.pdf>.

³² Samuel Allen Sr. and his wife Mary may be the Samuel and Mary who sold 100 acres in Louisa County, Virginia, on 14 July 1777 and who are not found in the Louisa County records there after that date. This Samuel is stated by some researchers to be the son of Joseph Allen who died testate in Spotsylvania County in 1782. However, additional research is needed before this link can be definitely established. Rosalie Edith Davis, *Louisa County, Virginia., Deed Books E and F, 1774–1790* (Manchester, Missouri: Heritage Trails, 1983), 18. Spotsylvania County Will Book E, pp. 513–4.

³³ Devins, *A History of Grassy Creek Baptist Church*, 142–3.

³⁴ "State Census of North Carolina, 1784–1787," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>).

³⁵ "Granville County, North Carolina, Tax List, 1788," *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina* (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr26-0054>).

³⁶ Granville County, North Carolina, Records of State Grants N:83, 84, 134, Register of Deeds, Oxford.

³⁷ Devins, *A History of Grassy Creek Baptist Church*, 102.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 142–145.

29 Nov 1812, Samuel Allen Sr. named as his children Susanna, Zachariah, Garland, Rachel, Nancy, Winifred, and James; he also included "...my son Samuel's two children by the name of Thomas and Elizabeth Allen to have their father's part but to remain in the hands of my executors hereafter mentioned until they marry or come of age."³⁹ Samuel did not, however, mention his wife in his will, suggesting that she had already died. Two bible records give her date of death as 20 March 1811.⁴⁰

Samuel Allen Jr.'s wife, Frances "Fannie" Rice, born 26 March 1775,⁴¹ married, as her second husband and his second wife, John Earl in Granville County on 27 July 1807.⁴² She is listed in the marriage record as Mrs. Fannie R. Allen and her husband as John Earl Jr. They relocated to what was then Washington County, Virginia, part of which was later taken to create Smyth County in 1832. When John Earl and his wife, Fannie, were enumerated in the 1850 census in Smyth County, they were living on land adjacent to two of their own children,⁴³ Martha G., who married Anderson P. McGhee on 21 October 1835;⁴⁴ and Lemuel V., who married Barbary Snider in Smyth County on 4 January 1838.⁴⁵

ON THE TRAIL TO VIRGINIA

The relocation of John and Fannie Earl from North Carolina to Virginia occurred between 1810 and 1820. In 1810 John Earl's household included two children, one male and one female, between the ages of 10 and 15, who would correspond to the age and gender of Earl's step-children, Thomas and Elizabeth Allen. In the 1820 census, John Earl still had a female of Elizabeth Allen's age living with him, but no corresponding male of Thomas Allen's approximate age.⁴⁶

³⁹ Granville County Estates, 1746–1958, CR.044.508.4, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. For digital image see <http://allenfamilyarchives.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/samuel-allen-sr-will-1812a.pdf>.

⁴⁰ Transcription of portions of John and Fannie Earl family bible, also reference to information from Zachariah Allen bible (source not noted) in papers of Lucy B. Geoghegan, now deceased, of Bardstown, Kentucky, digital copy of transcription in possession of the author. See note 6 for provenance. According to Zachariah's bible Samuel Allen died 1 March 1813.

⁴¹ Smyth County Death Register 1, pp. 3, 5 January 1858. Decedent listed as Frances Earles, informant was husband, John Earles, age at death was 83 years, 9 months, 10 days. Calculation made using date of death and age at death to show actual birthdate. This is also the date listed in bible. Transcription of portions of John and Fannie Earl family bible.

⁴² Brent Holcomb, *Marriages of Granville County, North Carolina, 1753-1868*, (Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1981), 97.

⁴³ 1850 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth County, p. 219, dwelling 851, no. family no. 861; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.Ancestry.com>).

⁴⁴ Smyth County Marriage Register A, p. 5, Martha Earl and Anderson P. McGhee, dated 21 October 1835. The bond was signed by John Earl, father of the bride.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 9, Lemuel Earles and Barbary Snider, marriage certificate dated 4 January 1838.

⁴⁶ 1810 U.S. Census, North Carolina, Granville Co., p. 915; 1820 U.S. Census, Virginia, Washington Co., p. 206; database and images, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>).

Although he likely relocated to Virginia with his mother and step-father—or soon thereafter—and definitely before his marriage in January of 1821, none of the Thomas Allens enumerated in the 1820 census in southwestern Virginia appear to be Thomas, son of Samuel. By the 1830 census enumeration, Thomas Allen—now firmly ensconced in Washington County, married, and the father of four children of his own—was beginning to thrive. At the time of the census, a total of ten individuals lived under his roof, not counting his one slave.⁴⁷ The 1838 Smyth County personal property tax list for Smyth County shows Thomas Allen paying taxes on four slaves and 23 horses.⁴⁸ Only four other men in the county owned more horses than Allen.

By the time of the 1840 census, Thomas Allen's prospects had improved even further. He then held twelve slaves with a total of 25 individuals enumerated in his household. Twenty-one persons were listed as being engaged in agricultural work.⁴⁹ Allen's household in 1840 included one male age 10–15, which corresponds to his son, Robert B. Allen (born 1826); two males age 15–20, one of whom was likely his oldest son, Samuel G. Allen (born 1823); four males age 20–30, one of whom was probably his step-son, John H. Crow (born 1812); three males age 30–40; and one male age 40–50, likely Thomas Allen himself (born in 1798). The females in the household included one between the age of 10 and 15, likely his daughter, Mary Ann (born 1824); and one age 40–50, who was undoubtedly Thomas's wife, Elizabeth (born ca. 1793). Allen's step-daughter, Jane, was not included because she had married Robert Thompson in 1836.

Less is known about Thomas' younger sister, Elizabeth, born 28 September 1799.⁵⁰ She likely relocated with her mother, step-father, and brother from North Carolina to Virginia. The 1820 census enumeration for John Earl in Washington County includes a female of Elizabeth's age living in the household.⁵¹ In 1830, she still appears to have been living with her mother and step-father. The listing that year for John Earle, then residing in Wythe County, includes a female of Elizabeth's age. By 1840, the Earls were living in Smyth County, but there was no female of Elizabeth's age listed in the household.⁵² Neither was she living

⁴⁷ 1830 U.S. Census, Virginia, Washington County, p. 225; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 2013).

⁴⁸ Jeffrey C. Weaver, "1838 Smyth County (Virginia) Personal Property Tax List," *New River Notes* (<http://www.newrivernotes.com/>).

⁴⁹ 1840 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., p. 382; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>). Thomas Allen household, showing 21 individuals engaged in agricultural work.

⁵⁰ Transcription of portions of John and Fannie Earl family bible, in papers of Lucy B. Geoghegan, now deceased, of Bardstown, Kentucky, digital copy of transcription in possession of the author. See note 6 for provenance.

⁵¹ 1810 U.S. Census, Virginia, Washington Co., p. 206; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>).

⁵² 1840 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., p. 391; digital image *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>).

with her brother, Thomas, as only two females—both accounted for—were living under his roof that year.

Two Elizabeth Allens were enumerated in the 1850 census of Smyth County. One was living with Samuel G. Allen, the eldest son of Thomas Allen; she was listed as 57 years old (born ca. 1793) and was probably Thomas's widow and Samuel's mother.⁵³ A second Elizabeth was living in the home of Robert B. Allen, Thomas's second-born son. Listed as age 50 (born ca. 1799/1800), she was probably Thomas's sister and Robert's paternal aunt.⁵⁴ The fact that Elizabeth Allen was 50 years old in 1850—and still bearing the Allen surname—means she was a spinster at the time and likely never married. No death records are recorded in Smyth County for either of these Allen women.

IN THE END, ALLEN'S HEIRS INHERITED LITTLE

According to Smyth County probate records, Thomas Allen's estate was valued at \$4,975.21.⁵⁵ By today's standards, that amount is equal to more than \$150,000.⁵⁶ However, the administrators of Thomas Allen's estate were overrun with claims from creditors. One was from a Wytheville bank for a debt in excess of \$1,000, and when the estate was finally settled in 1844, there was very little cash remaining to be split among his heirs. Samuel G. Allen, for instance, received a mere \$113 as his inheritance.⁵⁷

James Maxwell, who filed the lawsuit mentioned previously that named Thomas Allen's children by name, claimed that Allen owed him a personal debt of \$310. Maxwell stated in his filing that "Thomas Allen departed this life intestate largely indebted and possessed of an estate of personally (sic) wholly insufficient to meet his liabilities."⁵⁸

Among the many individuals who purchased items from Thomas Allen's estate sale, one finds the family members one would expect, including Thomas's widow, Elizabeth Allen, his son, Samuel G. Allen, his daughter, Mary A. Allen, and his step-son, John H. Crow.⁵⁹ The Widow Allen and her daughter both

⁵³ 1850 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., p. 172b, dwelling no. 216, family no. 219; digital image, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>).

⁵⁴ 1850 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., p. 218a, dwelling no. 838, family no. 846; digital image, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>).

⁵⁵ Smyth County Will Book 2:133, final sale, Thomas Allen estate, dated 21 May 1844.

⁵⁶ Lawrence H. Officer & Samuel H. Williamson, "Measures of Worth," *MeasuringWorth*, 2010 (www.measuringworth.com/).

⁵⁷ Smyth County Will Book 2, pp. 151–2, final accounting, Thomas Allen estate.

⁵⁸ Smyth County chancery file 1847-011, *Maxwell vs. Heirs of Thomas Allen*, Clerk's Office, Marion. The word "property" or the phrase "personal property" may have been intended by the plaintiff, rather than the word "personally."

⁵⁹ Smyth County Will Book 2, pp. 125–133, Clerk's Office, Marion.

purchased furniture from the estate sale, which occurred 7–11 March 1843, while his son purchased a “bay colt” for \$4 and his step-son bought a mare for \$64. Other buyers were Robert Thompson, the husband of Allen’s step-sister, Jane Crow, George W. Cullopp, who later married Allen’s daughter, Mary Ann, Robert Beattie (Smyth County Clerk of Court), and James M. Townsend.

The place of Thomas Allen’s burial is unknown, although it is likely he was buried in Royal Oak Cemetery beside his son, William T. Allen, who had passed away only eleven years earlier. It is a reasonable assumption that the three graves with unreadable tombstones adjoining William are the graves of Thomas, his wife Elizabeth and Samuel G. Allen, Thomas’s first-born son. Mary Ann (Allen) Cullopp is assumed to have died and been interred in Tarrant County, Texas, and Robert B. Allen and his wife, Paulina, are known to lie buried in the Mt. Carmel Cemetery east of Marion.⁶⁰ Therefore, the only logical occupants of the three graves beside William T. Allen are his father, mother, and older brother.

Children⁶¹ of Thomas Allen and Elizabeth (Snider) Crow:

- i. SAMUEL GREEN ALLEN, born 16 August 1821,⁶² married Sophronia F. Anderson on 29 August 1843, in Ashe County, North Carolina.⁶³ In October 1843, he was appointed a constable for the First District of Smyth County.⁶⁴ The 1850 census for Smyth County records his occupation as “stage driver.”⁶⁵ According to court records, Samuel G. Allen was committed to the Smyth County jail as “a lunatic” on 12 May 1856 by order of three justices of the peace.⁶⁶ Two local doctors were appointed by the court as a committee to examine Allen. The jailer was allowed thirty cents a day for Allen’s food and twenty-five cents a day for “necessary care.”⁶⁷ His death is recorded in the 1854 Allen Bible as

⁶⁰ Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Marion. Headstone inscriptions of Robert B. Allen and Paulina J. Allen, transcribed and photographed by the author in 1978.

⁶¹ Robert Batey Allen family bible. *Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testament Translated out of the Original Tongues; and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised* (New York: American Bible Soc., 1854). See note 1 for provenance. Smyth County chancery file 1847-011, *John Maxwell vs. Elizabeth Allen, etc.*, Clerk’s Office, Marion. Documents in the suit list Allen’s heirs as: “his widow Elizabeth and the following children and distributors viz—Samuel G. Allen, Robert B. Allen, and Mary Ann Cullopp, the wife of George W. Cullopp.” For digital image see <http://allenfamilyarchives.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/tallendoc.jpg>.

⁶² Robert Batey Allen family bible.

⁶³ Ashe County Marriage Records, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

⁶⁴ Smyth County Order Book 6, p. 23, Clerk’s Office, Marion..

⁶⁵ 1850 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smythe Co., p. 172b, dwelling no. 216, family no. 219; digital image, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>).

⁶⁶ Smyth County Order Book 10, p. 412, Clerk’s Office, Marion.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

occurring on 23 December 1856,⁶⁸ though no death record has been located in county records. Since he had been placed in the jail only seven months earlier, it is likely he was still in the custody of the Smyth County jailer at the time of his death. The appraisal of his estate was ordered by the court on 17 February 1857.⁶⁹ His place of burial is unknown. He and his wife, Sophronia, had no children.

Samuel's widow apparently remarried after her husband's death, though no record of the marriage was found in Smyth County. In the 1860 census, she was listed as Sophronia F. Johnson, the wife John T. Johnson of Seven Mile Ford, Smyth County sheriff.⁷⁰ Sophronia, at age thirty-six was thirteen years younger than her husband and their household in Seven Mile Ford contained three children ranging in age from 11–19. These were the three youngest of the seven children appearing in the 1850 census with John T. Johnson (occupation sheriff), an apparent widower.⁷¹ The Johnsons were living in Marion by 1870,⁷² with John listed as a farmer, but by 1880, Sophronia had died, and John T. Johnson was listed as a widower.⁷³ Smyth County records show that she passed away on 22 May 1880 at the age of 55.⁷⁴ She was buried near her parents, John and Catherine (Killing) Anderson in Smyth County.⁷⁵ As the sheriff of Smyth County during between 1850–1860,⁷⁶ Sophronia's second husband, John T. Johnson, would likely have been the man who arrested her first husband, Samuel G. Allen in 1856.

⁶⁸ Robert Batey Allen family bible.

⁶⁹ Smyth County Order Book 11, p. 42, Clerk's Office, Marion.

⁷⁰ 1860 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., 7 Mile Ford P. O., p. 145, dwelling no. 949, family no. 952; database, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>); digital image, *Fold3.com* (www.Fold3.com).

⁷¹ 1850 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., p. 161b, dwelling no. 79, family no. 81, digital image, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>). Incorrectly indexed as John L.

⁷² 1870 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., p. 27, dwelling no. 167, family no. 174; digital image, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>). Enumerated as John T Johnston.

⁷³ 1880 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., sheet 8D, dwelling no. 114, family no. 117; database *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>); digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.Ancestry.com>). Enumerated as John T. Johnston.

⁷⁴ Sophronia F. Johnston, "Virginia, Deaths and Burials, 1853–1912," database, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>).

⁷⁵ New York Historian, "Sophronia Anderson Johnson.," Find A Grave Memorial# 53309196, *FindAGrave.com* (www.findagrave.com). Digital image of tombstone by James Archer.

⁷⁶ 1850 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., p. 161b, dwelling no. 79, family no. 81, digital image, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>). Incorrectly indexed as John L. Johnson's occupation was listed as "sheriff," though he may have been a deputy sheriff at the time.

- ii. MARY MCAULISTER ALLEN, born 28 April 1824,⁷⁷ married George Washington Cullop⁷⁸ and relocated to Tarrant County, Texas, between 1870⁷⁹ and 1880.⁸⁰ She had at least nine children. James S., Nancy E., Frances V., and Susan C. were enumerated in the 1850 census.⁸¹ By 1860 George W., Mary J., Thomas A. and Watson had joined the family.⁸² By 1870, Floyd J., and Annie were also in the household.⁸³ Three-year-old daughter, Mary J., and one-year-old son, Watson, both enumerated with the Cullops in the 1860 census but not included in the 1870 census, are assumed to have died young. Only sons Thomas and John (Floyd J.) and granddaughter Anna B., age eleven (likely the Annie of the 1870 census), were still in the household in 1880.⁸⁴
- iii. ROBERT BATEY ALLEN, born 16 July 1827,⁸⁵ died 28 September 1896,⁸⁶ married Paulina Jane Killinger, born 2 November 1827, on 10 May 1849, in Smyth County.⁸⁷ She was the daughter of Michael Killinger and Susannah “Susan” Morris.⁸⁸ Robert and Paulina had eight children:

⁷⁷ Mary Mcaulister Allen was often recorded in early records as “Mary Ann Allen,” which includes the sale documents related to her father’s estate. Smyth County Will Book 2, pp. 125–133. In the various census records from 1850–1880, she was enumerated as Mary Ann Cullop, even though the 1854 Bible record of her birth shows her middle name as “Mcaulister and does include the middle name of Ann. Robert Batey Allen family bible. *Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testament Translated out of the Original Tongues; and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised* (New York: American Bible Soc., 1854). See note 1 for provenance.

⁷⁸ Most researchers list the date of marriage of George W. Cullop and Mary Ann Allen as having occurred in 1843, although there is no record of their marriage on file in Smyth County. She is identified as the wife of George W. Cullop in Smyth County chancery file 1847-011, *Maxwell vs. Heirs of Thomas Allen*, Clerk’s Office, Marion.

⁷⁹ 1870 U.S. Census, Virginia, Wythe Co. Blacklick Twnshp., p. 391a, dwelling no. 207, family no.208; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.Ancestry.com>).

⁸⁰ 1880 U.S. Census, Texas, Tarrant Co., sheet 78A, dwelling no. 66, family no. 71, database *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>); digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.Ancestry.com>).

⁸¹ 1850 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth County, p.184B; dwelling no. 382, family no. 387; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.Ancestry.com>).

⁸² 1860 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth County, 7 Mile Ford P. O., p. 911, George W. Cullop household, dwelling and family no. 316; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.Ancestry.com>).

⁸³ 1870 U.S. Census, Virginia, Wythe Co. Blacklick Twnshp., p. 391a, dwelling no. 207, family no.208; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.Ancestry.com>).

⁸⁴ 1880 U.S. Census, Texas, Tarrant Co., sheet 78A, dwelling no. 66, family no. 71, database *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>); digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.Ancestry.com>).

⁸⁵ Robert Batey Allen family bible.

⁸⁶ *Ibid*. His death record on file in Smyth County, incorrectly lists his father’s name as James Allen; his mother’s name was not recorded. Smyth County, Death Register 1, p. 112, Clerk’s Office, Marion.

⁸⁷ Smyth County Marriage Register A, p. 30; Robert Batey Allen family Bible record.

⁸⁸ No birth certificate exists for Paulina J. Killinger and she died in 1903 during a lapse in Virginia’s law requiring the recording of births and deaths. The names of Paulina’s parents were derived from a variety of sources, including Paulina’s marriage bond, which was signed by her father, Michael Killinger; a 16 May 1871 deed signed by Robert B. and Paulina J. Allen in which the Allen’s purchased Michael Killinger’s homeplace from Paulina’s brother and sisters, the marriage certificates of one of Paulina’s sisters, Sarah A. Killinger (first marriage, 1856) and Sarah Ann (Killinger) Sprinkle (second

William Jackson (1850–1893), James Thomas (1852–1920), Michael Albert (1854–1944), Susannah Elizabeth (1855–1935), Mary Margaret (1859–1941), Samuel Floyd (1862–1939); Ferd Johnston (1864–1945), and Eliza Jane “Doll” (1866–1915).⁸⁹ Robert was a blacksmith living in Seven Mile Ford in 1850⁹⁰ and 1860.⁹¹ By 1870, he was a farmer living in Marion.⁹² He was also the keeper of the toll bridge near his home.⁹³

- iv. WILLIAM TOWNSEND ALLEN, born 23 March 1829, died 28 October 1832⁹⁴ and was buried in the Royal Oak Cemetery in Marion.⁹⁵ His headstone was located by the author in the Royal Oak Cemetery in the late 1970s. It was then still standing in a line with three other identical tall slate headstones, although only William’s headstone was legible at the time. Today, even William’s headstone can no longer be read, thanks to the ravages of time, and some of the headstones are now broken. The source of William’s middle name, Townsend, is unknown, but there are other Townsends buried in the Royal Oak Cemetery⁹⁶ and a John M. Townsend was the co-signer of the bonds by which Thomas Allen became the legal guardian of both John Harvey Crow and Jane Crow.⁹⁷

Thomas Allen was a native of the Tar Heel state and died a son of the Old Dominion. He was a farmer and a postmaster, and his home at Seven Mile Ford was a place of lodging and entertainment for early travelers passing through the

marriage, 1869), naming Michael and Susan (Morris) Killinger as parents, and the will of George Killinger, Michael’s father, who named his son, Michael, and mentioned Michael’s wife, Susan Morris. Smyth County Marriage Register 1, pp. 1, 31; Smyth County Deed Book 10, p. 213; Smyth County Will Book A, p. 236–7.

⁸⁹ Robert Batey Allen family bible. *Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testament Translated out of the Original Tongues; and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised* (New York: American Bible Soc., 1854). See note 1 for provenance.

⁹⁰ 1850 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., p. 218A, dwelling no. 838, family no. 846; digital image, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>).

⁹¹ 1860 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., p. 146, dwelling no. 960, family no. 963; database, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>); digital image, *Fold3.com* (www.fold3.com).

⁹² 1870 U.S. census, Virginia, Smyth Co., Marion Twnshp., p. 19B; dwelling no. 237, family no. 234; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>).

⁹³ Toll keepers receipt book kept by Robert B. Allen in the possession of the author. The document is a bound notebook with ruled pages, handwritten in ink.

⁹⁴ Robert Batey Allen family bible.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*; “History of the Past, Present, and Future of the Royal Oak Presbyterian Graveyard, Its Log Meeting House, and its Graves, Part II,” unpublished manuscript by Clara Hill Carner, Smyth County Historical and Museum Society Archives, (1939). Entry for William T. Allen from headstone reads: “Sacred to the memory of — William T. Allen — Departed This Life — Oct. 28, 1832 aged — 3Y 7M & 4D.” The age at death matches the date of death listed for William Townsend Allen in the Robert Batey Allen family bible record.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, Listing of Royal Oak Cemetery headstones, including Henry Townsend, died 1798; Elizabeth Townsend, died 1811; Catherine Townsend, died 1835; and Henry Townsend, died 1831.

⁹⁷ Washington County, guardian bonds, unbound records, Clerk’s Office, Abingdon. Thomas Allen named guardian of John H. Crow (1827) and Jane Crow (1828). See note 20 for links to digital images.

area. He frequented the courts, both as a plaintiff and as a defendant, and when he died his estate was mostly gobbled up by his creditors, who even went after two small parcels of land he had left to his widow.⁹⁸

Only two of his four children gave Thomas Allen grandchildren, and none of those were born during his lifetime. Still, based on Bible records and census enumerations, his grandchildren numbered at least nineteen by 1870, and his step-grandchildren numbered at least eight by 1860. Two of his grandchildren bore his name, including: James Thomas Allen, the son of Robert B. Allen, and Thomas Allen Cullop, the son of Mary Ann (Allen) Cullop. Thomas Allen's paternal ancestry can be traced back to his grandfather, Samuel Sr. of Granville County, North Carolina, who was most likely born in Virginia. Hopefully further research will untangle the web of his ancestry as well.

Today, Thomas Allen's descendants are scattered across the United States from Texas to Kansas to Virginia and points in between and beyond. Some direct descendants, such as the author, grew up and still reside in the very county where Thomas lived, died, and was buried. The home where his son, Robert B. Allen, lived for the last thirty years of his life still stands, though the property is derelict and for sale. The Battle of Marion,⁹⁹ fought 17–18 December 1864, occurred around the site and the old smokehouse that was struck by minié balls during the fight can still be seen near the house. During a visit to the house in the late 1970s, Ruby E. Allen showed the author several pieces of furniture that were in the home during the battle and pointed out a number of unrepaired surfaces where the furniture had been struck by bullets that had come through the walls and windows.

The bridge and toll gate that Robert B. Allen kept for many years is long gone, despite it having been saved from multiple fires set by departing federal troops following the Battle of Marion. The savior of the bridge over the Middle Fork of the Holston River, which was so vital to local traffic and commerce, was none other than Allen's own daughter, Susannah Elizabeth.¹⁰⁰ She defied death threats from the federal troops, even though she was just shy of her ninth birthday, having been born on 24 December 1855.¹⁰¹

The Allen name in Smyth County has died out, at least among the descendants of Thomas Allen himself. Only his son, Robert, had male offspring bearing the

⁹⁸ *John Maxwell vs. Elizabeth Allen, etc.*, Smyth County chancery file 1847-011, Clerk's Office, Marion.

⁹⁹ Brian D. McKnight, *Contested Borderland: The Civil War in Appalachian Kentucky and Virginia* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2006), 221.

¹⁰⁰ Goodridge Wilson, *Smyth County, Virginia History and Traditions* (Kingsport, Tenn.: Kingsport Press, 1932), 252.

¹⁰¹ Robert Batey Allen family bible. *Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testament Translated out of the Original Tongues; and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised* (New York: American Bible Soc., 1854). See note 1 for provenance.

Allen surname, and of those children, all but one relocated to areas outside Smyth County. That son, Ferd J. Allen, remained at home to care for his aging parents and his special-needs sister; his marriage resulted in only three children—one boy, who died very young, and two daughters, who died unmarried in 1966 and 1995, respectively. Robert's other children scattered to East Tennessee and the Radford/Christiansburg area of Virginia. Many of those sons worked for the railroad in various capacities. Two of the daughters married into the Charlton and Groseclose families;¹⁰² the daughter who lived with Ferd never married.

CROW EXCURSUS

Although no record of the marriage has been found, Elizabeth Allen's first husband was obviously John Mackey Crow. He was deceased by 4 October 1815, when an inventory and appraisal of his estate were filed in Wythe County.¹⁰³ He and his surviving children were named in the will of John's father, Edward Crow, whose will, dated 13 July 1829, equally divided his property among his heirs, Robert Crow, James Crow, Edward Crow, Nancy Acre, and "John Mackey Crow's children when they become of age. That is their father's part of this last division, to be theirs, their heirs and assigns forever."¹⁰⁴

Thomas Allen's step-daughter, Jane Crow, married Robert Thompson in Smyth County on 21 January 1836.¹⁰⁵ Robert Thompson, born about 1800, was, according to the 1860 census, a distiller.¹⁰⁶ Nine children: William A., James C., Sepla C., Elizabeth Ann, John M. W., Samuel A., Mary Francis, Louisa J., and Lucy E. were enumerated in their household in the 1850 and 1860 Smyth County censuses.¹⁰⁷ Robert died intestate between his appearance in the 1860 census and January 1864 when the appraisal of his estate was filed. His wife's half-brother, Robert B. Allen was administrator of the estate. According to the estate sale bill, Robert's widow, Jane, purchased some furniture, a looking glass, a kettle, a coffee mill, and dishes.¹⁰⁸ Accountings filed with the court by his administrator show that the estate was not settled until early 1869.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰² Robert Batey Allen family bible. *Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testament Translated out of the Original Tongues; and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised* (New York: American Bible Soc., 1854). See note 1 for provenance.

¹⁰³ Wythe County Will Book 2, p. 157, Clerk's Office, Wytheville.

¹⁰⁴ Wythe County Will Book 3, p. 387, Clerk's Office, Wytheville.

¹⁰⁵ Smyth County Marriage Register A, p. 6, Clerk's Office, Marion. Bond signed by Robert Thompson and Thomas Allen.

¹⁰⁶ 1860 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., 7 Mile Ford P.O., p. 36, dwelling no. 233, family no. 232; database, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>); digital image, *Fold3.com* (www.Fold3.com).

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.* 1850 U.S. Census, Virginia, Smyth Co., p. 214, dwelling no. 776, family no. 785; digital images, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>).

¹⁰⁸ Smyth County Will Book 4, 215–216, Clerk's Office, Marion. No record of his death was found in the local death records filed in Smyth County.

¹⁰⁹ Smyth County Will Book 4, pp. 290–291, Clerk's Office, Marion.

Jane Thompson's whereabouts at the time of the 1870 census have not been pinpointed. However, an extant letter written by Jane to Robert B. Allen on 6 December 1870 proves that she was alive at the end of that year, although the letter gives no indication where she resided at the time of its writing.¹¹⁰ She did, however, tell her half-brother: "Robert when you come bring my saddle and my chair if you please." She asked for money, to be sent in a letter if Allen could not "come in a short time." Lastly, she urged him to "let the boys come down at Christmas," referring, no doubt, to her half-brother's numerous sons. The letter is tantalizing because it suggests that she lived close enough to Marion for her half-brother to come and visit without the trip being an arduous one. Still, she lived far enough away that her nephews apparently did not visit often. It can be assumed that Jane's request for money—and her insistence that it be sent in a letter if Allen could not bring it immediately—implied that her widowhood had left her with few sources of income. The date and place of her death is unknown, as is the location of the Thompsons' burials.

Another mystery is what became of Thomas Allen's step-son and ward, John Harvey Crow. There are no marriage records for him in either Washington or Smyth counties; neither are there any death records for him filed in either locality. No John H. Crow, or any close approximation thereof, appears in the area census records from 1830 to 1880. Census records do indicate that a John H. Crow, born in Virginia in 1812 (the same place of birth and birth year of Thomas Allen's step-son), was living in Orange County, Indiana, in 1850.¹¹¹ His household included wife, Lydia, and two children, Elizabeth F., age 3, and Mary J. Crow, age 2, born in Virginia. He has not been located in 1860, but in 1870 he was enumerated as James[sic] H. Crow in Kansas with Lyda, Mary (age 20), James (age 19), William (age 17), Anna (age 14), and John (age 11). All the children were listed as born in Indiana, except Mary, who was born in Virginia.¹¹² By 1880 the family was living in Osage County, Kansas.¹¹³ The couple had two children still living at home in 1880: William H., born in 1851, and Anna C., born in 1857, also in Indiana.¹¹⁴ While two known facts about John H. Crow match Allen's step-son, there is no evidence beyond these minor similarities that this John H. Crow is the correct one.

¹¹⁰ Letter from Jane Thompson to Robert B. Allen, dated 6 December 1870, handwritten in ink on ruled paper, two pages, signed "Jane Thompson." Letter is in the possession of the author. For digital image see <http://allenfamilyarchives.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/jane-thompson-letter-1870.pdf>.

¹¹¹ 1850 U.S. Census, Indiana, Orange Co., p. 459, dwelling no. 756, family no. 747; *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>).

¹¹² 1870 U.S. Census, Kansas, Osage Co., Valley Brook Twnshp., p. 3, dwelling no. 25, family no. 46; digital image, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>).

¹¹³ 1880 U.S. Census, Kansas, Osage Co., Valley Brook Twnshp., sheet 184A, dwelling no. family no. not given; database, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/>); digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>).

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.* Years of children's birth extrapolated from stated age in 1880.