

## about the "Allen" family

The earliest of our known Allen ancestors was James Allen of Donegal, Ireland, who married a Margaret Haggerty of County Tyrone.

A guesstimate of his birth would be 1750

Their only child is known to us as James John Allen, estimated birth, circa 1780.

This J. Allen married an Elizabeth Wilkinson. It is this Allen family which emigrated to Canada in 1831

Prior to leaving Ireland, the following letter of reference was obtained from their Presbyterian minister. (The original letter, sealed in plastic, is in the files of Douglas Irving Gibson) -

I do hereby certify that James J. Allen and family are natives of the Parish of Kilmacrennan County Donegal, Ireland, now worshippers in the Presbyterian congregation of Kilmacrennan + are people of unblemished character, and may be admitted into any Christian Society where it shall please Divine Providence to order their lot.

(dated)  
26<sup>th</sup> April 1831

(signed)  
John Allen  
Presbyterian Minister

Current (1972) correspondence reveals the former parish of Kilmacrossman is now the Durfanaghy congregation. Rev Robert J Lester (the manse, Ramelton) advises that there are no written records available prior to 1848, as up to that time our Presb. people in Donegal were persecuted by the E. St. Church (Church of England) & our ministers either did not keep written records or they have been destroyed. A speculation - perhaps the Irish potato famine which began in 1846 - 15 yrs after the Allens' emigrated - diverted the persecutors attention to other more pressing problems.

The James John Allen family came to Canada in 1831 by clipper sailing ship, & travelled by boat up the St Lawrence to Brockville. At least 2 children died during the voyage (scarlet fever?) & were buried on the river's bank. The family first settled on a farm near New Dublin, owned by one Josh Bolton.

William Allen, a son of James, J. Allen purchased Lot 1, 6<sup>th</sup> concession, Elizabeth township; in 1841 for 75 pounds. This 100 acre lot was originally a Crown grant May 19, 1835 to an Archibald Duncan. On this land W<sup>m</sup> Allen built a home which is structurally sound & in use to-day. The

present owner is Mr. Raymond Droppo.

W<sup>m</sup> Allen & his wife, the former Marguerite Wilson of Belfast, here raised a family of ten children. Marguerite Wilson's parents had also emigrated from Ireland, in 1831, 10 years after the Allens and also rented the Josh Dalton farm.

On the death of W<sup>m</sup> Allen, the property reverted by will, to his youngest son Gaius Allen, who married Janet Bertha Dalton in 1891, they lived on the former W<sup>m</sup> Allen<sup>farm</sup> until 1899(?) at which time the property was sold, and the family moved to Brockville. They lived in several different homes there in the next 10 yrs. Gaius developed a Livery & Cartage business & was involved in a contracting business partnership.

The final home of this Allen family was on Wellington St. Brockville, & Maud Conn, visiting there in 1969 found it in excellent repair. Disturbed by the impact of automotive equipment on his livery business, Gaius Allen, with his eldest daughter Maud left Brockville early in 1910, visiting Toronto, Chicago, Winnipeg