

## William Allen: The Paper Trail

The following is an annotated list of all the documents [found to date] that survive from William Allen's lifetime that shed some light on his life. It does not list many of the genealogical "facts" that exist in various sources: birth dates, marriages, deaths, etc. because these are not found in the official records of the time. The one exception is the series of tithable lists (tax rolls) taken in Loudoun County Virginia in the 1758 to 1787 period. The Allen family missed out on being included in much of the 18<sup>th</sup> century record because they were Presbyterians and this group tended to avoid dealing with the official record keeper of colonial times, the Anglican Church.

The fifty+ documents listed here either have William Allen's name on them in some capacity, or that of an immediate family member (brother, child, or in-law). They are offered with a minimum of conjecture or speculation, but I have included some explanatory comments to make it easier to connect the dots among them. In themselves, they will not give a very clear picture of his life. For that we need to integrate them with the genealogical record and other bits of family lore—as well as a general understanding of what was going on in the colonies during these years. What they do, though, is confuse the picture tremendously. Past descriptions of his life have been terse in the extreme and have given a very linear account of his movements within New Jersey and to Virginia. These documents tend to raise more questions than they answer. What is clear from them is that William Allen was living in/doing business in the two states simultaneously for quite a number of years. Fixing his place of residence at many particular points in time is very difficult.

I will leave it to another time to tell the story of his life (as I am coming to see it). For now, just enjoy the bits and pieces of the paper trail he left from 1734 to 1799. And consider, perhaps, what *your* paper trail will look like!

Douglas Allen  
December 2005

## Monmouth County, New Jersey (1730s)

Source: *History of the Old Tennent Church* by Rev. Frank Rosebrook Symmes (1856 Oct 24 - 1928 Mar 22), Cranbury, N.J. : G.W. Burroughs, printer, 1904.

- p. 39—Diagram of Pews in 1734 in the First Church built on White Hill:
  - Pew in NE corner (#30) rented by "Joseph Wilson 30/, Wm. Van Ker[?] 30/, **Wm Allen** 20/ Joseph Preston 30/, Peter Wilson 20/ John Tomson 10/, Wm Laird 10/ £7" [Math error: These entries total 150 shillings, which comes to £7/10]
  - Pew on right side of center aisle (#21) rented by "**John Berry** & William Hampton £5"
  - Pews #19 & 20 (just ahead of Berry) rented by John and Joseph **Forman**, respectively; £5 each; Jonathan **Forman**, Esq. and Aaron **Forman** rented pew # 29, across the aisle from Wm. Allen's pew (£3 and £1 paid by them, respectively)
- p. 181—List of Communicant Members:
  - "Person Admitted to the Lord's Table (besides the Session Members) June 8, 1735. all the Session Present."
    - On the list are **Alice Allen** and **Isbela Berry**.
    - [Side note: this list includes 23 men and 36 women. What were all the men doing?]
- p. 204 ff.—List of Baptisms
  - "Early Baptismal Records in Old Tennent Church, Mostly During the Pastorate of Rev. William Tennent, Jr." [List is alphabetical, not chronological]
    - "**William Allen** had bap. **Sarah**, Jan. 8, ---4; **Janet**, Apr. 1, ---6."
    - "**John Berry**, had bap. **Mary**, Nov. 25, 1731; **Thomas**, Nov. 4, 1733; **Isabella**, Jan. 22, 1738; **David**, May 18, 1741; **John**, Feb. 27, 1743; **Sidney**, June 30, 1745 [son]; **Ebenazar**, July 19, 1747; **Samuel**, March 5, 1749."
    - **Samuel Heriot**, son-in-law to Joseph Ker, had bap. Margaret, June 15, 1760."

[**John** and **Isbela Berry** are presumed to have raised **Janet (Jane) Allen** after **Alice** and **Sarah Allen** had died (around 1736 or so). I'm not sure of **Samuel Herriot's** connection, but he could have been a brother of **Ephraim Herriott**, who married Jane Allen in 1756 (see Marriage Bond below). A **William Ker**, no doubt related to the Joseph Ker mentioned here assisted in settling Ephraim's father's estate (see **David Herriott's** will below). The Kers were a prominent family at Old Tennent, according to Ed Burke, the church historian. Several members of the Forman family moved to Hampshire County, Virginia and two of their descendants married daughters of **William Allen** and **Jane Warford**.]

## **Hunterdon & other New Jersey Counties (1740s—1780s)**

### **Will of William Sherman, made/recorded February 25, 1740**

William Allen is listed as one of the people preparing the inventory of Sherman's estate. Sherman lived in Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

### **Marriage Bond for Christopher Beekman and Sarah Cox, made November 11[?], 1741**

Unlike most marriage bonds (of later years), this one is hand written. On the microfilm, the left margin is missing and the page has been damaged so the text is incomplete. [Interesting note: **Sarah Cox** was listed as a "spinster" in the bond, but birth year is generally reported to be 1726, which would have made her fifteen at the time.]

### **A Resurvey of August 9, 1748 redefining the acreage in a parcel purchased by William Allen of Amwell.**

The parcel, in Hunterdon County, NJ was previously owned by **Richard Heath** and initially surveyed at 125 acres. (It was not part of the 90 or 449 acre tracts described in **William Allen's** 1769 mortgage below.) This document records a resurvey of the tract putting the acreage at 180. The resurvey was requested by William Allen, who asserted that Heath had sold the property to Bartholomew Anderson in 1739, who subsequently sold it to Allen, though the date of the second sale was not given.

[**William Allen** is explicitly identified as "of Amwell" in this document. It should be noted that there was another William Allen in Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County at this time. He died in 1756 and had a son also named William. I'm assuming that explicitly naming this William as "of Amwell" means he was not one of these others.]

### **Will of John Thatcher, made/recorded May 12, 1749**

William Allen is listed as one of the people preparing an accounting of Thatcher's estate. Thatcher lived in Kingwood in Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

### **Will of John Luke, made/recorded September 24, 1751**

William Allen is listed as one of the people preparing the inventory of Luke's estate. Luke lived in Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

### **Will of George Fox of Kingwood in Hunterdon County, made April 27, 1754.**

Names sons **George, Ambros, Absalom, Amos, and Gabriel**.

[All but George show up in Loudoun County, VA. The will was witnessed by Malakiah Bonham and Nehemiah Bonham, who also show up in Loudoun County and intermarried with the Foxes. **Gabriel Fox** married Ann Warford, Jane Warford's sister—thus was related to **William Allen** by marriage.]

[Additional note: Gabriel's father has been reported by some to be the **George Fox** who founded the **Quaker** movement. *That* development took place in England in the mid 1600s and *that* George Fox married only late in life to a fifty-something widow with grown children of her own. The connection seems fanciful at best.]

### **Will of David Herriott of Somerset County, made April 20, 1756.**

Names wife (Ursula), son **Ephraim** and son-in-law **Ephraim Lockhart** as executors; refers to sons and daughters, but names only younger sons **Andrew** and **John Forman Herriott**. **John Berry** and **William Ker** inventoried the estate.

[**John Berry's** involvement with this will reinforces the connection between the Berrys and Herriotts, which facilitated the marriage of **Ephraim Herriott** and **Jane Allen** (next entry). How much did **William Allen** know of these events? Enough that his son **David Allen** and **Ephraim Herriott** were friends. See their joint 1791 purchase of property in Hampshire County, Virginia below.]

### **Marriage Bond for Ephraim Herriott and Jane Allen, made December 7, 1756**

Both of Bedminster, where John Berry had moved from Freehold after 1749. Bond was co-signed by **Thomas Berry** (presumably **John Berry's** son, who would have been 23 at the time). A note attached to the bond says: "These are to certify Whome it may concern that **Ephraim Herriot** has the concent of me John Berry for geting license for Marriag with **Jane Allen** a yong Weoman I have brought up from her infancy [?] as witness my hand. Bedminster, Decemr ye 10<sup>th</sup> 1756. John Berry"

### **Affidavit of Sarah Warford regarding the death (intestate) of her husband Job, made March 24, 1757.**

[See John Warford's will below. Job was his oldest son (and therefore Jane Warford's brother), but died before John's will was made, so was not mentioned in it. There is evidence that Job owned a tavern along the Delaware River in the vicinity of the Warford and Allen farms.]

### **Will of John Berry of Bedminster, New Jersey, made September 2[?], 1758.**

Names wife **Ezabelle Berry**, three adult sons, **Thomas** (age 25), **David** (17), and **John** (15), minor sons **Sidney** (13) and **Ebenazar** (11), and daughters **Mary Lockhart** (age 27, married to **James Lockhard**—possibly a brother of **Ephraim Lockhart** who was married to David Herriott's daughter), **Ezabelle** (20), and **Elizabeth** (under 9). Does not name **Jane Allen** or son **Samuel Berry** (listed in the Old Tennent Church baptism records of 1749). Presumably, Samuel died young and Elizabeth was born after the family moved to Bedminster from Freehold. This would date the move sometime after 1749.

[**John Berry** presumed to be **Alice (Berry?) Allen's** brother by virtue of his giving away Jane Allen in marriage in 1756. See above.]

### **Will of James Tobin, made/recorded February 6, 1759**

William Allen posted bond as the administrator of Tobin's estate. He lived in Amwell Township in Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

### **Will of John Warford of Kingwood in Hunterdon County, made June [?], 1761.**

Names wife **Elizabeth** (Stout), daughters **Abigail Warne**, **Elisabeth Colvin**, **Rachel Quimby**, **Jane Allen** and **Ann Fox**, and sons **James** (who got the land and was executor), **Joseph**, and **John**. The will describes the location of the land as being along the Delaware River.

[**Abigail** was married to **George Warne**, who owned land adjacent to her father; **Elizabeth Colvin's** husband not known, but **William Allen's** daughter **Ann** married a **Colvin** (probably named either **Stephen** or **Robert**) and lived with several other family members in Hampshire County, Virginia. (A **Philip Colvin** owned land just a couple miles south of William Allen's tract in Hunterdon County) **Rachel** married **Isaiah Quimby**, who owned land just north of William's; **Ann** married **Gabriel Fox**, who lived in both Loudoun County (with four of his brothers) and Hampshire County, near William's son **David Allen** and son-in-law **Ephraim Herriott**. John Warford's death given elsewhere as 1769]

### **Will of John Ruckman, made or recorded December 24, 1749—report to the court made April 15, 1767**

In this report, William Allen is listed as "acting executor." The Ruckman's lived just west of Allen's Amwell Township property. [Colonial documents of New Jersey, Vol 11, p. 585]

### **Mortgage from William Allen to Capt. John Anderson, made June 9, 1769**

**William Allen** mortgaged two adjacent properties in Hunterdon County for a total of £224, one of 90 acres, the other of 449.9 acres. The account in the New Jersey deed book appears to be abbreviated—several "&c" included at what is probably boilerplate text. No deadline for repayment is specified, but a marginal note in the county deed book says that the original mortgage, which had been cancelled, was brought in to show the clerk on May 6, 1774.

[A **Capt. John Anderson** was a member of the Old Tennent Church in Freehold during and after the years that William lived there, eventually becoming one of the "managers" of the church. It is likely that this is the same man William went to for the mortgage.]

[See **William Allen's** mortgage of this same property to **Nathan Beakes** of Hunterdon County in 1774 below. See also his mortgage of Red Hill in Sept. 1772 to Nathan Beakes in the Loudoun County, Virginia section.]

### **Newspaper announcement of Public Vendue (auction), published March 12, 1771**

**William Allen** placed an advertisement in the Philadelphia Gazette announcing the proposed sale of his New Jersey land—at an auction to be held April 16<sup>th</sup>. He gives a glowing description of the property and its improvements, as well as the benefits of the surrounding area. (The wording is similar to that of other similar announcements that appears during this time.) He concludes with this note: "The chief motive which induces the Subscriber to make sale of the aforesaid, is owing to a considerable purchase of lands that he made in Virginia government, which requires his commanding eye towards the improvement of the same."

[From the details of the description, it is clear that this property is the same as that mortgaged to **Capt. John Anderson** above. Note that the 1774 mortgage below to **Nathan Beakes** indicates that he did *not*, in fact, sell the land in 1771. At this point, I don't have documentation of the eventual sale.]

### **Newspaper announcement requesting the return of a runaway slave, published June 13, 1771**

William Allen placed a newspaper announcement requesting the return of "a Mulattoe fellow, named Jack, about 30 years of age, about 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high... bowlegged...", going on to describe what he was wearing and offering 40 shillings to anyone who would deliver him to "any of his Majesty's goals (jails)." This is one of three pieces of evidence that William Allen owned slaves.

[See below in the Loudoun County, Virginia section where **William Allen** signed a mortgage deed to **Abraham Warford** on June 8, 1771. The close proximity of the dates suggests either that he traveled pretty quickly or that his son **Will Jr.** is the one who placed this announcement, and possibly even the March auction announcement.]

### **Marriage Bond for Aaron Warford and Agnes Hogeland, made November 29, 1773**

**Aaron Warford** was **Jane Warford's** nephew by her brother **James**. Agnes may have been the daughter of William Hoagland, who owned land east of **William Allen's** 449 acre Hunterdon tract.

### **Mortgage from William and Sarah Allen to Nathan Beakes, May 6, 1774**

**William Allen** re-mortgaged his New Jersey property to **Nathan Beakes**, this time for £381/12/3. The microfilm of the document is next to illegible, but enough is clear to establish that this is the same property described in the mortgage to John Anderson above and that the date is the same as the canceling of the prior mortgage.

[It's an interesting question as to why **Sarah Allen** was included on this transaction, but not on the 1769 one. They were married in 1766. See also the 1772 mortgage to Nathan Beakes in the Loudoun County section below.]

### **Deeds from George Warne to John Kruger, made August 28, 1782 and May 31, 1783**

**George Warne** was **William Allen's** brother-in-law—married to **Jane Warford's** sister **Abigail**. These deeds indicate that George and Abigail sold their Hunterdon County farm (which was adjacent to her father **John Warford's** farm and within a couple of miles of **William Allen's**) in two stages (at least). The first has them living in Kingwood and Kruger being a miller from Bucks County, Pennsylvania (just across the Delaware River); the second has the Warnes in Sussex County (north of Hunterdon) and Kruger being a resident of Kingwood.

### **Deed from William Allen & Isaac Green to Abel Hoff, made December 2, 1785**

According to the deed, this parcel of 120 acres was purchased February 1, 1774 from **Nathan Hunt**. It lay ten to fifteen miles south of **William Allen's** other Hunterdon properties, on the border of Hopewell and Maidenhead Townships in what later became Mercer County.

[It might be questionable whether this was our **William Allen**, since that name was quite common and the distance from Amwell Township significant—except that **Isaac Green** is listed on the Loudoun County, Virginia tithables for 1771 as living with (working for?) William Allen (along with Silas Rose and son David Allen). Also, the deed was witnessed by Joseph Beavers, very possibly related to the Thomas Beavers who was a neighbor of William Allen's in Virginia. With this sale, William Allen's business dealings in New Jersey seem to be at an end.]

## **Northampton County, Pennsylvania (1760s and 1770s)**

William Allen's brother **David Allen**, according to family lore, came over from Northern Ireland with him in 1729. For many years he was considered essentially MIA after they landed in Philadelphia. It now appears that he lived in the Mount Bethel area of Northampton County throughout his time in the colonies, which is up the Delaware River about 120 miles from Philadelphia (and about fifty miles from when William eventually settled in Amwell Township). He left very few traces, and these have only been discovered by our branch of the family in the last several years. Those found so far come from the archives of the County Court in Easton and include these three documents:

### **Lawsuit between Richard Shott & David Allen, heard September 20, 1768**

There are two documents associated with this suit. The first is the order to summon David given to the sheriff by the Court (dated June 23, 1768), which says **David Allen** should be summoned "So that he be and appear before our Justices at Easton at Our County Court of Common Pleas when to be held the twentieth day of September next to answer Richard Shott of a Plea of Trespass on the Case &c." The second is the Court record book, which is very cryptic but seems to indicate that the matter was resolved in favor of "declareor" [sic] in March 1769, but no mention of penalty or fine was made. [It's possible that David never appeared, as the distance to Easton was not insignificant.]

### **Deed from David Allen to Richard Freeman, made September 10, 1774**

**David and Isabel Allen** sold a 117 acre (+143 perches) farm in Mount Bethel Township to **Richard Freeman**, of nearby Lower Saucon Township. The property was located on Pine Run and had been originally granted to David & Isabel in 1758 by the Proprietors of Pennsylvania. The deed says that the property to the south was owned by **Jacob Shoemaker**, and the land on the other three sides was vacant.

### **Will of David Allen, made August 16, 1774**

Leaves money to his wife **Isabel**, to brother **William Allen** "now living in the Jerseys," to William's sons **John** and **David**, and to William's son-in-law **Ephraim Herriot** (daughter **Jane Allen's** husband). It mentions no children for **David** and **Isabel**, but rather leaves substantial funds to the local Presbyterian congregation and to indigent students at "Prince Town College." The inventory of the estate includes land in Oxford Township, Sussex County, New Jersey worth £400, rent from the same, and other land worth £200. (Oxford Twp is just across the Delaware River from Mount Bethel, in what is now Warren County.) David's death date is not given, but the inventory is dated June 29, 1776 and the will was recorded July 6, 1776. [Interesting that the will, which mentions his ill health, was written about the same time he sold his Mount Bethel farm.]

[What is missing here is a lawsuit referred to in **William Allen's will** (see below in the Loudoun County section), wherein the **executors of David's estate** sued William for an unreported sum. The reason for the suit is not given. My speculation is that it involved the money left to **John Allen**, since he died within four years of David (1779 or 1780). As slowly as legal matters moved in those days, I can believe that David's executors forwarded money for John to William, only to find out later that John was dead. When they asked for the money back, William probably refused, leading to the suit. Note that in 1774, when he wrote his will, David thought that William was still living in New Jersey. Other records suggest that he had been in Virginia since about 1769—1771 at the latest.]

## Loudoun County, VA (1760s to 1799)

### Loudoun County Tithable Lists—1758-1787

Tithables were a head tax, collected each year, usually around June. County residents were responsible for checking in with the appointed "collectors" in their neighborhood, paying the assessment and getting their names on the list. The record for these years is a reasonably complete (though far from perfect) list of who lived there during this time. The head of the household was listed first, followed by any other white adult males (age 16+) and any slaves (male or female). As you will see, **William Allen's** record is spotty at best—which is probably explained by all the New Jersey business he was doing during these years. In addition, in many years there were **two William Allens**, the other living in the western portion of the County. (See the discussion of "**Bad Bill**" in the 1763 deeds below.) I have not included references to him. To further confound things, in the early years of the County (formed in 1757) there are references to a "**William Allen, Carpenter**." This is definitely not the "other William Allen" because he shows up in parallel with the "carpenter." It could possibly be our William or his son William, Jr., but there is no way to be sure.

Here is a list of entries for William Allen (excluding those clearly for "Bad Bill"):

- **1758—William Allen**, but not clear which one. Probably "Bad Bill" since we have no independent indication that our William was in Virginia this early and there is evidence that the "Bad Bill" was there as early as 1759.
- **1760—William the Carpenter**
- **1762—William the Carpenter**
- **1763—William Allen** was added to the tithable list by court order after the initial listing was finalized. We know it's our William because there is reference to his 900 acre parcel of land.
- **1765—William the Carpenter**
- **1767—William the Carpenter**
- **1768—in Luke Gowin's household** (It's possible that this is **Will Jr.** and **Will Sr.** was back in New Jersey this year. According to the Skillman genealogy written in 1906, the Allens moved with the Skillmans from New Jersey to Loudoun County in 1769. The author of that record, William Jones Skillman, was apparently not aware that William had purchased property in Virginia seven years earlier. It is plausible, though, that if William had been spending a significant amount of time during the 1760s in New Jersey, the Skillman family would not have known about his earlier investment in Virginia land, and we would have an explanation as to why he did not appear regularly on the Loudoun County tithables.)
- **1769—with Jonathan Trigir**
- **1771—with Sylas Rose, Isaac Green, and son David Allen**
- **1774—in Jonathan Davis's household**, along with **Amos Davis**; **William Allen** listed in last position
- **1775—again in Jonathan Davis's household**; **William Allen** listed second followed by **Robert Donohue**, and (Davis's) negro **Cate**
- **1777—with Thomas Allen and John Allen** (sons)
- **1779—with Joseph Allen and John Allen** (sons—though some sources say John died as early as 1776 or 1777. Joseph would have been only fifteen this year, technically too young to be taxed.)
- **1780—with Joseph Allen** (son)

There is a gap in the lists from 1782 through 1785. **William Allen** is missing from the 1781 and 1786 lists. In the 1787 roll the format changed, he is listed with no other names, but there is an indication of one white male in the 16-20 age range, presumably **James**. There is also an indication of one **slave** in the household. Family lore suggests that the older sons were dead at this point (from wounds or illnesses incurred during the Revolutionary War); **David** was living in Hampshire County with his new wife, **Ivea Fox**. **Joseph** was seventeen at this point and **James** was thirteen.



The 1769 through 1775 entries are problematic because there is documentation (above) that William was in New Jersey during those years. It is especially troublesome when we consider that he owned 900 acres in Loudoun County during this time (which made him one of the larger landowners in the county) and that, when he appeared on the lists, he was listed as belonging to someone else's household. The most likely possibility is that this person is his son **William Jr.**

### **Deeds of Lease and Release from John Sasser to William Allen, made December 20 and 21, 1762**

Other than the Tithable lists, this is the first evidence of our **William Allen's** presence in Loudoun County Virginia. The purchase was for 900 acres at a price of £360. The combination of a Lease document and a Release document, usually dated a day apart was an odd convention derived from provisions in Virginia colonial law which said that one must be in possession of land (have the right to use it) before one could buy it. On the same days that William purchased his land (what became Red Hill Plantation), he witnessed the purchase of 406 acres "next door" by **William Beavers**, who in turn witnessed William's purchase. Both transactions were also witnessed by **Abraham Warford**, Jane Warford's nephew, who purchased 300 acres of Red Hill from William in 1771 (see below).

### **"Bad Bill" Allen**

In March 1763, the Loudoun County Court recorded a sale of 1150 acres in western Loudoun County from **Rev. Charles and Margaret Green** of Fairfax County to **William Allen** and **John Violett**—the sale having actually taken place in 1759. However, all indications are that this was another William Allen—dubbed "**Bad Bill**" by me based on numerous problems he had in the Loudoun County Court. "Bad Bill" and John Violett disposed of this property in 1764 in a series of confusing transactions.

[I am including this brief summary for "Bad Bill" because this purchase of 1150 acres is often ascribed to our **William Allen**. A careful reading of the record (including deeds, tithable lists, and the Loudoun County Court proceedings) indicates this isn't so.]

### **Deeds of Lease and Release from William Allen to Abraham Warford, made June 8, 1771**

In this deed, **William Allen** is identified as being "of the Township of Amwell County of Hunterdon and Province of West New Jersey." Warford is "of County of Loudoun and Colony of Virginia." The sale was for the southern third of Red Hill Plantation (300 acres) at a price of £120 (one third of William paid for the entire 900 acre parcel in 1762). The Deed of Release is signed also by **Sarah (Cox Beekman) Allen**, William's third wife. It was witnessed by her daughter **Catherine (Beekman) Skillman** and *her* husband **John Skillman**, along with an **Agnes Cox** whose family connection to Sarah might be presumed but hasn't been discovered yet. The deed was "proved" October 17, 1777, shortly before John Skillman died. No explanation as to why the extra court action six years later.

[Some interesting notes: 1) that William is apparently not a resident of Loudoun County at this point and 2) that he asked for no profit from Warford, even though land values were rising during this period. Note that he was still transacting business in New Jersey after this time (see Hunterdon County section above). He had put the New Jersey farm up for sale earlier this same year, but did not sell it, as indicated by the 1774 re-mortgaging to Nathan Beakes. Perhaps the sale to **Abraham Warford** was driven by this failure to dispose of the New Jersey property. See also the mortgaging of Red Hill to **Nathan Beakes** below.]

### **Deed from James Spencer to John Skillman, made August 12, 1771**

**John Skillman** was married to **Catherine Beekman** (**Sarah Cox Beekman Allen's** oldest daughter by her first husband—therefore he was **William Allen's** son-in-law by marriage). This purchase of 265 acres was for an irregularly shaped parcel a mile or so east of Warford's 300 acres purchase (downstream along Broad Run, which was the main water channel in that part of the county, and which originated—in part—on Red Hill Plantation).

[Though William's name is not on this transaction, it seems to support a conclusion that his (and his family's) move to Virginia was much later than previously supposed. John Skillman's brother Christopher also purchased Loudoun County property this year—from a New Jersey couple, Daniel and Lydia Pursley.]

### **Mortgage from William and Sarah Allen to Nathan Beakes, made September 20, 1772**

In this document, **William** and **Sarah Allen** mortgaged the entire 900 acres of Red Hill Plantation to **Nathan Beakes** of Hunterdon County, New Jersey for £332/12/8 of "Proclamation Money." The term of the mortgage was one year. Witnessing the transaction was Isaac Allen—though there is no record of this person existing. It was probably Isaac Green, who was listed as living with the Allens in the Loudoun tithables that year.

There is a confusing note added at the end of the recorded copy of the mortgage: "I do hereby acknowledge that the sum of Three hundred and nine pounds part of the money contained in this Mortgage is included in a Mortgage given by said **William Allen** to me upon lands in Hunterdon County in New Jersey. **Nathan Beakes**"

[Interesting that William could mortgage land that he had already sold to **Abraham Warford**! Between this discrepancy and the confusing note by Beakes, it almost seems that the transaction dates are wrong—that mortgaging Red Hill to Beakes was used to pay off the mortgage of the New Jersey farm and that selling part of Red Hill to Warford was done to pay off Beakes. But the transaction dates will not support this reading of the events.]

### **Deed from William Ellzey to Andrew Smalley, made June 3, 1774**

This deed involved property adjacent to Red Hill Plantation (west side). It is listed here because it makes reference to "**Allen's line**" in the property description. [See the Allen-Smalley lawsuit and Smalley wheat sale below.]

### **Will of William Allen, Jr., made March 14, 1776**

Identified as a "soldier being join'd in the Army," he left sundry belongings to **brother Joseph** and **sisters Else, Ann, and Elizabeth**—Elizabeth being under 18 at the time. **Gabriel Fox** was appointed executor. The will was "proved" in the County Court February 10, 1777 and "fully proved" again "at another Court" April 10, 1780.

[Other than family tradition (and possibly the Loudoun tithable lists), this is the only record of **William Jr.'s** existence. No wife, land, or children were ever recorded. If his will wasn't so clear in its references to children of our William, we probably wouldn't be able connect it to the family with any certainty.]

### **Will of John Skillman, made December 28, 1776**

**John Skillman** left everything to his wife **Catherine Beekman**. His slaves were to be sold and the income applied to paying his debts and to raising and educating the children. After the youngest child then living came of age, the remainder of the estate was to be sold and divided among Catherine and the living children. If she remarried, the estate was to be sold and the proceeds divided among the children as they came of age. I should note that the will indicates that Catherine was pregnant at the time of its writing. **Catherine** and **Gabriel Fox** were to be executors. **William Allen** and **Absalom Fox** gave security along with them when the will was

recorded. The will was proved in County Court the same day as that of **William Allen Jr.**, February 10, 1777.

There are several later court documents dealing with Skillman's estate, probably because his instructions were to remain in force as long as his children were under age. Named in later reports to the County Court are people who either purchased items from the estate or were paid by the estate for something. These include **William Allen**, **Robert Wright** (father-in-law of **William's sons David and Joseph**), **Absalom** and **Abraham Fox** (brothers of **Gabriel Fox**, who was brother-in-law to **William Allen**), **Ephraim Herriott** (William's son-in-law), and **Abraham Warford** (nephew to Jane Warford), among many others (most of whom were neighbors). According to the December 9, 1782 entry, Skillman's widow, **Catherine Beekman**, had married **Jesse Edwards** and received her portion of the estate (1/7<sup>th</sup>) in cash. In the March 14, 1777 report, **William Allen** is listed as having purchased "one Negro wench." With the 1771 ad in the Philadelphia Gazette and the 1787 tithable list, this is one of three bits of evidence that he ever owned slaves. In the inventory recorded March 9, 1778, **William Allen** is also listed as one of the appraisers of the estate.

### **Inventory of the Estate of John Keen, recorded May 12, 1777**

**John Keen** was a neighbor living just to the north of Red Hill Plantation. **William Allen** is listed as an appraiser of his estate.

### **Inventory of the Estate of Col. Thomas Russell, recorded August 10, 1777**

The Russells were a prominent family in the area. **William Allen** is listed as one of the appraisers of the estate.

### **Deed of Gift from Abraham Warford to James Crooks, made March 4, 1789**

**Abraham Warford** gave his son-in-law, **James Crooks**, fifty acres along the west edge of the 300 acres he had purchased from **William Allen** in 1771. The deed is listed here because it refers to William Allen's land in the property description.

### **Cluster of Deeds made March 25 to March 31, 1790**

This group of four transactions constitutes a complex transaction, the bottom line of which was the sale by **William Allen** of 150 acres along the east edge of Red Hill Plantation to **Henry Peterson**. In the process, though, **William Allen** and **Abraham Warford** traded thin strips of land along their common border (two separate deeds), apparently in order to fix the line of Peterson's tract solidly south of Broad Run. The 1771 sale to Warford referenced the Run, but did not specify on which side of it the line was. The southern boundary of the sale to Peterson was then made clear. In addition to Peterson's deed purchasing the tract (for £210) is also a mortgage of the land to **Gabriel Fox** for half the purchase price (£108/15). Fox was mortgagee in his capacity as executor of **John Skillman's estate**, which is confusing in and of itself since the estate had been finally settled in 1782. Beyond this is the fact that Fox was living in Hampshire County, Virginia at this time, having moved there (or at least purchased property there) almost ten years previously.

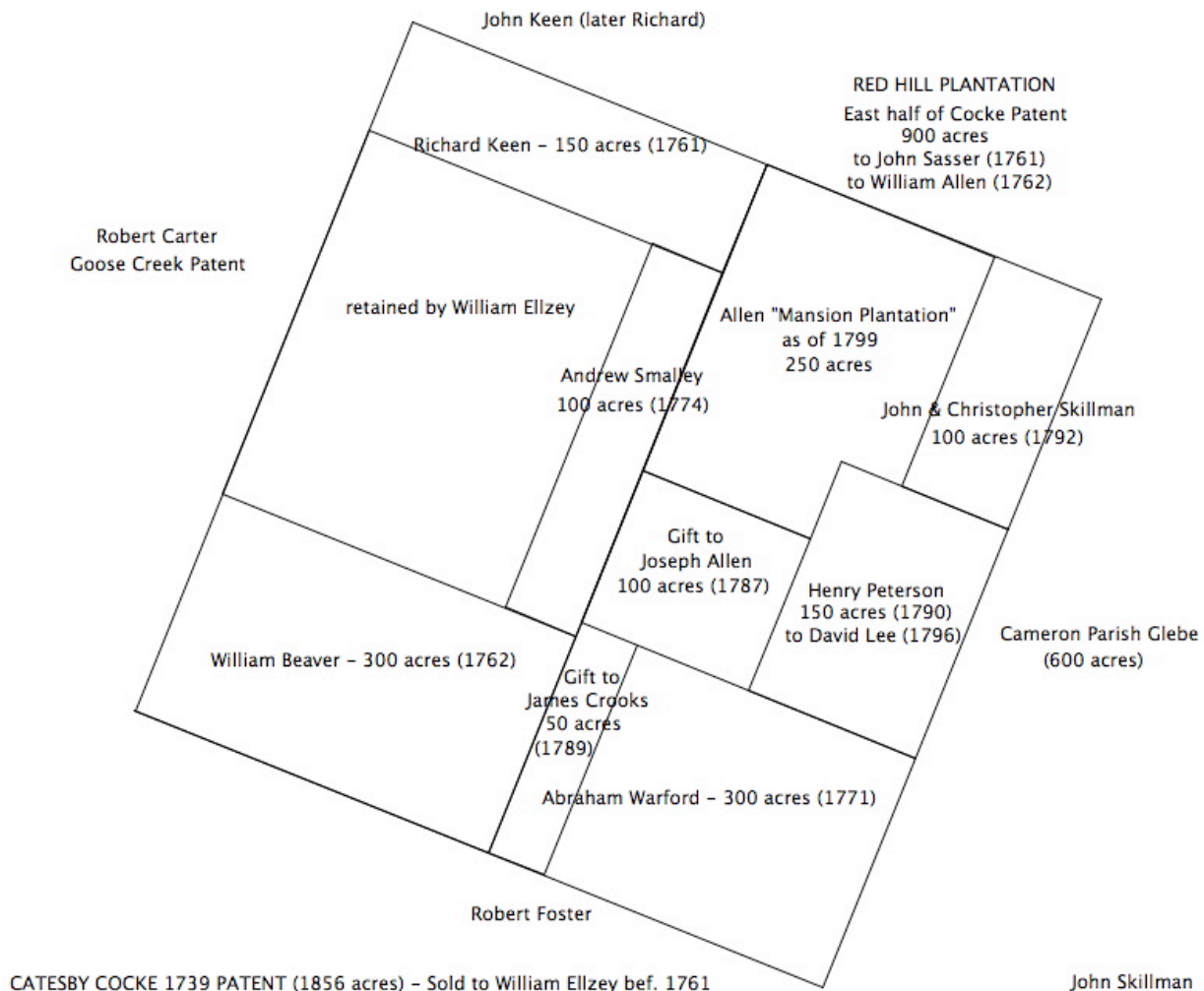
[For more on Peterson, see William Allen's will below, as well as the Deed from Peterson to **David Lee** for this 150 acres in 1796.]

### **Deed from William Allen to John and Christopher Skillman, made March 5, 1792**

This was the final sell-off of a section of Red Hill during **William Allen's** lifetime. It was to two grandsons of his wife **Sarah Allen**—sons of her daughter **Catherine Beekman Skillman**. The 100 acre parcel lay in the northeast corner of the original 900 acres. The price for it was left blank in the recorded deed, though it is not identified as a gift. Sarah signed the deed also and it was witnessed by their son **James Allen** and **Abraham Skillman** (a brother of John and Christopher). The deed was proved in the County Court February 11, 1793. A marginal note on

the court copy says: "Examined and delivered to John Skilman the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 1802, G. W. Blincoe."

The following diagram shows the relative positions of the various Loudoun County properties referred to in this section.



### Lawsuit between William Allen and William Smalley, initiated April 9, 1792

There is a raft of paperwork associated with this action—mostly depositions taken by court appointees of family members on both sides of the conflict. Without going into the details, it concerned the sale of a horse by **William Smalley** (a brother of Andrew Smalley who owned the farm next door) to **William Allen** in 1787 which turned out not to be what Allen was expecting. Apparently he never paid Smalley and after several years Smalley sued him in County Court. We don't have the record of that suit, but apparently he won and Allen, in this suit, is asking for injunctive relief from paying the debt because of misrepresentations made by Smalley at the time of sale. The case dragged on until September 9, 1794. The court docket is unclear as to the outcome of the suit, but it looks like it might have been a draw—a classic case of "he said, he said."

### **Bill of Sale from Joshua Smalley to Joseph Lewis, Sr., made June 1, 1792**

**Joshua Smalley** was another brother in the next-door Smalley family. This bill of sale was for a "certain Bay Mare" and "also a Stack or parcel of Wheat on the Plantation of **Joseph Allen** containing about fifty bushels clean merchantable Wheat more or less." Joseph was already farming the land that he was to receive in his father's will a few years later. Family tradition says that the 100 acres was a gift from his father on the occasion of his wedding to **Frances Wright** in 1787. [Why Smalley's wheat was on Joseph's land is a mystery, as is how this transaction might relate to the contemporaneous lawsuit described above.]

### **Deed from Andrew Smalley to David Smalley, made March 2, 1795**

This was a resale of the 100 acres **Andrew Smalley** bought next to Red Hill in 1774 to his brother **David**. It is listed because it references "Allen's line" as did the original deed. Andrew is listed as being "of Hampshire County in Commonwealth of Virginia" and indeed, he shows up on tax roles there as early as 1782. (See Allen-Smalley lawsuit above.)

### **Deed of Gift from three Ellzey sisters to Ann and Albert Russell, made May 3, 1796**

This gift was for fifteen acres lying just north of Red Hill Plantation and the deed references "**the line of Allen**." It was witnessed by, among others, **James Crooks**, son-in-law to **Abraham Warford**.

### **Will of William Allen, made October 8, 1796**

The will names sons **David**, **Joseph**, and **James** (co-executor along with his wife **Elizabeth Lee**); and daughter **Elizabeth Furman** (with reference to "my other daughters I consider I have sufficiently provided for"). The will makes reference to two debts due from **Henry Peterson**, which James has been empowered to collect. David's inheritance (£50) is to come out of this debt, though if Peterson can't pay, James is tasked with paying David. It also refers to a suit pending with the executors of his brother David's estate in which they are trying to collect "a debt and costs which is unjustly claimed of me." Joseph is tasked with paying one third of this debt, should the suit be lost, and if he or his heirs fail to pay, James is authorized to sell enough of Joseph's land to recover the money. No mention is made of David's or James's responsibility in the affair. The will was proved in court July 8, 1799 and James posted his bond as executor October 11, 1799.

[This will is very interesting for several reasons: the uneven distribution of property, designating his youngest son as executor, the partial assignments of responsibility for debts, and the conditions attached to the inheritances. It is also problematic in that it does not mention William's wife **Sarah Cox**. She reportedly died in 1797, so, though she predeceased him, she should have been discussed in the will.]

### **Deed from Henry Peterson to David Lee, made December 24, 1796**

This was the resale by **Henry Peterson** of the 150 acres he bought from **William Allen** in 1790. Lee paid him £450, a nice profit for the six years he held it. **David Lee** was the father of **Elizabeth Lee**, wife to **James Allen** and co-executor of William Allen's will (see above). He owned other property in the vicinity of Red Hill, primarily to the east.

[There is no documentation as to whether this sale helped Peterson pay off his debts to William Allen noted in the will above, but we might assume that it did.]

## Hampshire County, VA (1780s—1805)

While William Allen never lived in Hampshire County, most of his surviving children did. They began moving into that area (which is now in West Virginia) in the late 1770s at the latest. These are the few records still existing in the Hampshire County Court House. (Note: Hampshire County was included in the portion of Virginia that was split off into West Virginia during the Civil War. It is about fifty miles WNW of the area in Loudoun County where William Allen lived.)

## Hampshire County, Virginia "Heads of Families" lists for 1782 and 1784

The following people are listed as living near Romney, the county seat.

- **David Allen**, (William Allen's oldest surviving son) married to (1779) **Ivea Fox** (daughter of **Gabriel Fox**), and (1789) **Elizabeth Wright** (daughter of **Robert Wright** and sister of **Frances Wright**)
- **Gabriel Fox**, married to **Ann Warford** (sister of William Allen's wife **Jane Warford**)
- **Ephraim Herriott**, husband of **Jane Allen** (William Allen's daughter by **Alice Berry**)
- **Benjamin Forman**, husband of **Else Allen** (William Allen's daughter by **Jane Warford**)
- **Rev. William Forman**, Benjamin Forman's 1<sup>st</sup> cousin and husband of **Elizabeth Allen** (William Allen's daughter by **Jane Warford**)
- **Robert Colvin** and **Stephan Calvin** (one of these was probably the husband of **Ann Allen**, another of William Allen's daughters by **Jane Warford**),
- **Andrew Smalley** (who owned property next to Red Hill)
- **Hezekiah Bonham**, nephew of **Gabriel Fox** (son of his sister **Anchor Fox** who was married to **Uriah Bonham**)
- several others who had in-law connections to the Allens and other Loudoun County or Hunterdon County families, primarily Formans, Berrys, Wyckoffs, and Blues.

## Deed from John Forman to Ephraim Herriott & David Allen, made April 14, 1791

This 195 acre parcel "lying on both sides of Castlemans Run, a drain of the South Branch" of the Potomac River and purchased for £30, was to be divided between **Herriott** and **Allen**, 3/4 and 1/4 going to each of them respectively. It was to be held "not as Joint Tenants, but as Tenants in Common." **John Forman** was possibly the father of **William Forman** (Furman) who married **David's** sister **Elizabeth**, and uncle to **Benjamin Forman** who married his sister **Else**.

## Will of Gabriel Fox, made February 26, 1798

**Gabriel Fox** gave his son **William** "all my carpenter's, joiner's and cooper's tools" along with eleven sheep. His wife (unnamed, but probably not **Ann Warford**, who is reported to have died about 1761) was well provided for, should she remain his widow; if she remarried, much of her inheritance went to the grandchildren. They were identified as **William**, **John**, and **Margaret Allen** (children of daughter **Ivea Fox** and **David Allen**) and **Ivea Fox** (daughter of son **William Fox**). [Gabriel's daughter **Ivea** had died in the 1780s, after which **David** married **Elizabeth Wright**.] The will was witnessed by, among others, **David Allen** and recorded December 16, 1799 with the Hampshire County Court.

## Will of Ephraim Herriott, made May 3, 1800

**Ephraim Herriott** divided his land among his three sons, **William**, **John**, and **Ephraim Jr.** Also mentioned are daughters **Ursula Wicuf**, **Sarah Blue**, and **Isabella Blue**. Not mentioned is wife **Jane Allen**. **David Allen** and **William Fox**, along with two others, witnessed the document, which was recorded July 14, 1800.

## Will of Robert Wright, made February 28, 1803

**Robert Wright** and his wife **Margaret Braden** were the parents of **Franecs**, who married **Joseph Allen**, and **Elizabeth**, who married **David Allen**—both **William Allen's** sons. This will mentions wife **Margaret** and all **Robert's** children, which included "Fanny" and **Elizabeth**.

Among the property disbursed were 14 slaves, one or two to each of the children. **William Fox** and **Michael Blue** (possibly the father-in-law of **Sarah** and **Isabella Blue** above) witnessed the document, which was recorded September 19, 1803. [We don't know when Robert Wright moved to Hampshire County. He lived in Loudoun County from at least 1771 through 1785 (tithable lists). His will indicates he that he had been in Hampshire County for a while—possibly since before his daughter Elizabeth married David Allen in 1789.]

#### **Deed from David & Elizabeth Allen to William Fox, made April 16, 1804**

This sale was for two parcels of land: 100 acres on Castlemans Run, identified as "being part of a Tract of land on which **Gabriel Fox** deceased formerly lived... and now in possession of the said **William Fox** by virtue of the Last Will & Testatment of the said Gabriel Fox," and "one fourth part of a certain tract or parcel of land... containing 195 acres" which **David Allen & Ephraim Herriott** had purchased from William Forman. The purchase price was \$600. [It certainly sounds like David was selling William Fox land he already owned. How David came to have rights to it is unclear.] **Elizabeth Allen's** consent to the transaction was confirmed by court appointed witnesses on April 19, 1804.