

William Allen Timeline

The following events are drawn from genealogies, church records, deeds, marriage records, tax rolls, and county court records. There are conflicts among genealogical records regarding birth and death dates, and even regarding birth order in some families. The genealogical information I've included here are the most precise, if not the most accurate or well-documented, that I've found—since accuracy at this distance is hard to verify unless corroborated by some official record. I'm making the assumption that if someone could put down a month and date, they probably were relying on good information. I've taken no liberties of my own with this information (except where I make explicit conjectures). This is not an interpretive document—rather an attempt to put down what I've learned in one place, in chronological order. My hope is that patterns will emerge here that will help explain some of the confusions and discrepancies that appear in other records.

[Note: Numbers in parentheses after names are people's ages at the time (if known).]

Year Mon/Day Event/Document/etc.

1711	Feb 2	William Allen was born at Ballycraigie, just outside the town of Larne in Antrim County, Northern, Ireland to Robert Allen Jr. (35) and Janet Hare (32)
1729	—	William Allen (18) migrated to America with brother David (19) ; David went to Mount Bethel, Northampton County, Pennsylvania; William went to New Jersey. According to family lore, he lived with a Quaker family in West Jersey (which was a separate colony from East Jersey in the early years), but the place was unspecified. [My speculation is that he served a four-year indentured servitude contract before the following events took place.]
by 1734		William Allen (23) was living in Freehold, Monmouth County, (East) New Jersey. In that year he co-rented a pew in Old Tennant Church (then known as the Church on White Hill) with several other men; his share of the rent was 20 shillings. John Berry and family also rented a pew. The church building had just been completed this year; it is likely that William helped build it. Also this year, William married Alice Berry (age unknown) .
1735	Jan 8	William and Alice's daughter Sarah Allen was baptized at Old Tennent Church; apparently died in infancy
	Jun 8	Alice Allen & Isabela Berry were on the list of communicants at Old Tennent Church
1736	Apr 1	William and Alice's daughter Janet Allen was baptized at Old Tennent Church
1736-40		During this period Alice Allen died; after her death William left his daughter Janet (Jane) with John and Isabela Berry and moved to Amwell Township in Hunterdon Co. and by 1740 had married Jane Warford (then c. 20) [Whether the marriage was before or after the move is unknown. There is some evidence that the Warfords lived in Monmouth County in the 1720s and 1730s, before they moved to Hunterdon County.]
1739	Dec 13	William Allen and Edward Shippen , as executors of the estate of Humphrey Morrey , placed an notice in The American Weekly Mercury and The Philadelphia Gazette announcing the sale of properties on Loakaling Creek in Amwell Township (near that of John Reading) and in Limerick Township near Philadelphia. This may not be our William because Morrey lived in Philadelphia and there was a William Allen, esq. (a judge) living there at the time—but our William's Amwell property was next to Loakalong Creek and near property owned by John Reading. It is conceivable that he purchased it from this estate's holdings. [Pure speculation on my part...]

- 1740 Feb 25 **William Allen** was listed as helping to prepare the inventory of the estate of **William Sherman** of Hunterdon County, New Jersey. [Colonial Documents of New Jersey, vol. 30, p. 430]
- 1741 Nov 11 Marriage bond posted by **Christopher Beekman (26)** in preparation for his marriage to **Sarah Cox (15)**, in Middlesex County, New Jersey
- c. 1742 — Son **William Allen Jr.** born to **William Allen (31)** and **Jane Warford (22)**
- c. 1743 — Son **John Allen** born to **William Allen (32)** and **Jane Warford (23)**
- c. 1745 — Son **David Allen** born to **William Allen (34)** and **Jane Warford (25)**
- 1748 Aug 9 **William Allen (37)** had his farm in Hunterdon County resurveyed by the county surveyor, establishing that it had 180 acres, rather than the 125 quoted on his purchase deed. (This was not the farm listed in the 1769 and 1774 mortgages below.)
- 1749 May 12 **William Allen** was listed as helping to prepare an accounting of the estate of **John Thatcher** of Kingwood, New Jersey. [Colonial Documents of New Jersey, vol. 30, p. 476]
- c. 1750 — Son **Thomas Allen** born to **William Allen (39)** and **Jane Warford (30)**
- 1751 Sep 24 **William Allen** help to inventory the estate of **John Luke** of Hunterdon County. [Colonial Documents of New Jersey, vol. 32, p. 189]
- c. 1752 — Daughter **Else (Alsey) Allen** born to **William Allen (41)** and **Jane Warford (32)**
- c. 1756 — Daughter **Ann Allen** born to **William Allen (45)** and **Jane Warford (36)**
- 1756 Dec 7 Marriage bond posted by **Ephraim Herriott (21)** in preparation for his marriage to **Jane Allen (20)** in Bedminster, New Jersey; a note was attached from **John Berry** giving his permission for the marriage.
- c. 1758 or 59 Daughter **Elizabeth Allen** born to **William Allen (48)** and **Jane Warford (38)**
- 1759 Feb 6 **William Allen** posted bond as administrator of the estate of **James Tobin** of Hunterdon County, New Jersey. [Colonial Documents of New Jersey, vol. 32, p. 326]
- May 18 "**Bad Bill**" **Allen** bought 1150 acres in Loudoun and Fauquier Cos., Virginia (jointly w/ a **Joseph Allen**, probably his brother) from **Rev. Charles Green** of Fairfax County. [See the accompanying "Paper Trail" for an explanation of "Bad Bill." This purchase has traditionally been ascribed to our William, but there is much evidence proving that it was another William Allen.]
- 1760 — **William Allen, "Carpenter"** appears on the Loudoun County tithable list for the first time. (Best guess: this was **Will Jr.**—age 18 this year and out exploring for a place to settle down; possibly also scouting for his father, since many New Jersey families were moving to Virginia during this time)
- 1762 — **William Allen, "Carpenter"** appears on the Loudoun County tithable list
- Dec 20 **William Allen (51)** purchased 900 acres in Loudoun County, Virginia from **John Sasser**—part of an 1856 acre patent awarded to **Catesby Cocke** in 1739—near what is now Dulles Airport. There is no indication that William Allen moved to Virginia at this point, though one or more of his sons might have spent time developing the property.
- 1763 Mar 24 "**Bad Bill**" **Allen** recorded his 1759 purchase of 1150 from **Rev. Charles Green** with the Loudoun County Court. At this time the deed was changed to reflect that **John Violett** had taken over **Joseph Allen's** interest in the property.
- Oct 11 **William Allen (52)**, owner of 900 acres, is retroactively put on the Loudoun County tithable list by order of the County Court.
- 1764 Apr 20 Son **Joseph Allen** born to **William Allen (53)** and **Jane Warford (44)**; probably in New Jersey, but some sources say Virginia
- **Christopher Beekman (49)** died of smallpox in Middlesex County, New Jersey, leaving his wife Sarah with seven children—the youngest but a year old.
- 1765 Jan **Jane Warford Allen (45)** died; one source says she was buried in the church yard in Gum Spring (Arcola) Virginia, but she probably died in New Jersey.

- One possible site for her burial is the Mount Airy Presbyterian Church in Amwell Township. This church is about five miles from the Allen farm and has graves going back to the 1760s. All but two of the stones from that period have no inscriptions (not worn down—just never inscribed).
- 1766 — **William Allen, "Carpenter"** appears on the Loudoun County tithable list
- 1766 Jan 2 **William Allen (55)** married **Sarah Cox Beekman (39)** of Middlesex County, New Jersey, widow of **Christopher Beekman**. She had had seven children by Beekman, ranging in age at this time from 3 to 25. The older include **Christopher (25)**, **John (16)**, and **Catherine (24)**—who had married **John Skillman** in 1763). These four people show up in the record below. I haven't listed them separately, but **Catherine** and **John Skillman** had five children during the decade from 1767 to 1777—at the same time that her mother **Sarah** was having three children with **William Allen**.
- 1767 — **William Allen, "Carpenter"** appears on the Loudoun County tithable list
- Son **Samuel Allen** born to **William Allen (56)** and **Sarah Cox (40)**; died in infancy
- Apr 15 **William Allen** listed as "acting executor" in settling the estate of **John Ruckman** (the recording of the will was back on December 24, 1749) who lived just west of him in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. [Colonial documents of New Jersey, vol. 30, p. 408]
- 1768 — Daughter **Hester Allen** born to **William Allen (57)** and **Sarah Cox (41)**; died in infancy
- **William Allen** was listed as a member of **Luke Gowan's** household on the Loudoun County tithable list (**Will Jr.?**)
- June 23 William's brother **David Allen (58)** was summoned to appear before the Northampton County, Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas to answer a change of trespassing brought by **Richard Shott**. The summons was for September 20th. The Court record indicates that the verdict was for the "declareor" in March 1769.
- 1769 — **William Allen (58)** appeared on the Loudoun County tithable list with a **Jonathan Trigir** listed as part of the household. It is only at this point that we can be reasonably sure that William Allen actually lived in Virginia, even though he had purchased property there in 1762. Indeed, the Skillman family history says that **William** and **Sarah Cox Beekman Allen** came to Virginia with **John** and **Catherine Skillman** this year. See below, though, for the many instances of his transacting business in New Jersey in following years.
- Jun 9 **William Allen** mortgaged his two New Jersey properties (90 acres and 449.9 acres) to a **Capt. John Anderson**. Capt. Anderson was a leader in the Tennent Church (Freehold) during the time William lived there. I've found no record of him living in Hunterdon County, so William probably went back to Freehold to negotiate the loan with him.
- Oct 15 Son **James Allen** born to **William Allen (58)** and **Sarah Cox (42)**, probably the only one of his children born in Virginia
- 1771 — **William Allen (60)** appeared on the Loudoun County tithable list with **Sylas Rose**, **Isaac Green**, and son **David Allen** listed as part of the household
- Mar 12 **William Allen** announced an auction of his New Jersey farm on April 16th. (The property apparently was not sold then. See the May 6, 1774 mortgage below. We don't have any documentation as to when he finally did sell it.)
- Jun 8 **William Allen** sold 300 acres of Red Hill Plantation to **Abraham Warford**. The deed was recorded with the Loudoun County Court August 12th.
- June 13 An announcement by **William Allen** of Kingwood, New Jersey in The Philadelphia Gazette requested the return or jailing of a runaway mulatto named **Jack**. (He had been last seen on May 20th.)
- [The foregoing four documents suggest that William Allen was in two states at once—or that he traveled rather quickly between them during the April-

		June period. A possible alternate explanation is that his son Will Jr. was handling things in New Jersey. It is unlikely that Will Jr. would have sold the Virginia property to Warford. This is just one of the puzzles created by these documents. See Sep 20, 1772.]
	Aug 12	John Skillman (29, Sarah Cox Allen's son-in-law) purchased 265 acres in Loudoun County near Red Hill from James Spencer .
1772	Sep 20	William (61) and Sarah Allen (45) mortgaged Red Hill (entire 900 acres, including the 300 sold to Abraham Warford!) to Nathan Beakes of New Jersey. This transaction is related to the May 6, 1774 mortgage below, but the documents are confusing in their cross-references. [There is another Loudoun mortgage dated January 12 th 1771 involving the parcel between the 300 acres sold to Abraham Warford in June and the 265 acres purchased by John Skillman in August. There are two major problems with these deeds: 1) The January deed specifically refers to Warford's ownership of the 300 acre tract five months before he bought it, and 2) the property boundaries do not match up, yet they refer to geographical locations that indicate that they are in the same small vicinity along Broad Run.]
1774	—	William Allen was listed as a member of Jonathan Davis's household on the Loudoun County tithable list (Will Jr.?)
	Feb 1	William Allen (63) and Isaac Green jointly purchased 120 acres on the border of Hopewell and Maidenhead Townships in Hunterdon County, New Jersey from Nathan Hunt .
	May 6	William Allen and Sarah Allen re-mortgaged their two New Jersey properties (90 acres and 449.9 acres), this time to Nathan Beakes . The mortgage to John Anderson was cancelled on this date.
	Jun 3	Andrew Smalley bought a 100 farm adjacent to Red Hill. The family included father Isaac and brothers David, Joshua, William and Ezekiel . They had significant interactions with the Allens in the 1790s, though Andrew himself moved to Hampshire County about 1780.
	Aug 16	William's brother David Allen (64) made his will, leaving money to William and some of his children: specifically, David (29), John (31) , and son-in-law Ephraim Herriott (39) .
	Sep 10	Brother David Allen sold his 117+ acre farm in Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania to Richard Freeman .
1775	—	William Allen was listed as a member of Jonathan Davis's household on the Loudoun County tithable list (Will Jr.?)
1776	Mar 14	William Allen Jr. (34) made out his will upon "being joined in the Army"—leaving possessions to his younger brother Joseph (12) and sisters Else (24), Ann (20), and Elizabeth (17) . No mention of a wife, children, or land in the will. Virginia was recruiting military units to send into the war with Britain at this time.
	Jun 29	Brother David Allen's estate inventoried after his death (age 66). Included in the property is a New Jersey farm (Oxford Township, Sussex County) and other properties. The will was recorded in the Northampton County Court July 6.
	July 4	Independence from Britain was declared by the Continental Congress
	July 22	A David Allen (though not proved that this was William's son) enlisted in the 1 st Virginia Regiment. (See July 22, 1779.)
	Dec 28	John Skillman (34) made out his will, being quite ill at the time.
1777	—	William Allen (66) appeared on the Loudoun County tithable list with Thomas Allen (27) and John Allen (34) listed as part of the household
	Feb 10	The wills of William Jr. and John Skillman were probated at the Loudoun County Court
	Mar 14	A report from Gabriel Fox (41) , the executor of John Skillman's will , to the County Court says that William Allen (66) purchased "one Negro wench"

		from the estate. This is one of three pieces of evidence that he owned slaves. (See the 1771 newspaper announcement above and the 1787 tithables below.)
1778	Mar 9	William Allen (67) in reported to be one of the appraisers of John Skillman's estate .
1779	—	William Allen (68) appeared on the Loudoun County tithable list with Joseph Allen (15) and John Allen (36) listed as part of the household
		Son David Allen (34) married Ivea Fox (21) , daughter of Gabriel Fox (43) and Ann Warford (52) —though it is possible that she was dead by this time)
	July 22	A David Allen was discharged from the 1 st Virginia Regiment of the United States Army, having completed a three-year enlistment. Don't know if this was William Allen's son, but the timing is good with respect to his marriage to Ivea Fox .
1780	—	William Allen (69) appeared on the Loudoun County tithable list with Joseph Allen (16) listed as part of the household.
	—	It is likely that both Thomas and John Allen were dead by this time, though we have no documentation of it. The most precise source we have (Mrs. Luther G. Evans' Bible record in the Balch Library in Leesburg, Virginia) says John died of smallpox in the Revolutionary War and Thomas and William "died soon after they were discharged from Revolutionary Army from exposure while in service."
	Jun 27	Granddaughter Margaret (Peggy) Allen born to William's son David Allen (38) and his wife Ivea Fox (22)
1781	Oct 19	Gen. Cornwallis's surrender to George Washington at Yorktown, Virginia. Family lore says that William's son Joseph Allen (17) was in the Army at this time and present at the surrender.
1782	—	The Hampshire County, Virginia "Hheads of Families" lists the following as living near Romney: David Allen (40) , Gabriel Fox (46) , Ephraim Herriott (47, h. of Jane Allen—46) , Benjamin Forman (h. of Else Allen—30) , Rev. William Forman (h. of Elizabeth Allen—23) , Robert Colvin and Stephan Calvin (one of these probably h. of Ann Allen—26) , Andrew Smalley (who owned property next to Red Hill), and others who had in-law connections to the Allens.
	Jul 4	Grandson William Allen born to son David Allen and Ivea Fox in Hampshire County
	Dec 9	Gabriel Fox submitted a final report to the County Court on John Skillman's estate . The widow Catherine Beekman had remarried by this time, to Jesse Edwards , and received her portion of the estate in cash. William Allen , among many others, was noted in the report. (Note that Fox lived in Hampshire County at this point, and would have had to travel over fifty miles to Leesburg during the winter to submit the report.)
1783	—	Grandson John Allen born to son David Allen (41) and Ivea Fox (25) in Hampshire County
1784	—	The Hampshire County, Virginia "Hheads of Families" lists contain most all of the names that appear on the 1782 lists.
1785	Dec 2	William Allen (74) and Isaac Green sold the 120 acre New Jersey parcel they bought in 1774 to Abel Hoff .
1787	—	William Allen (76) appeared on the Loudoun County tithable list with one white male aged 16-20 (James—18 ?) and one slave listed as part of the household.
	—	Son Joseph Allen (23) married Frances Wright (21) ; William Allen gave them 100 acres as wedding present.
1788	Sep 15	Granddaughter Margaret Allen born to son Joseph Allen (24) and Fannie Wright (22) in Loudoun County. William Allen bought a mare from William Smalley . (See lawsuit starting in 1792 below.)
By 1789		Ivea Fox (David Allen's wife) had died (after bearing three children)

1789	—	David Allen (44) remarried, this time to Elizabeth Wright (21) , sister of Frances Wright who married his brother Joseph
1790	—	Granddaughter Elizabeth born to son David Allen (45) and Elizabeth Wright (22) in Hampshire County
	Mar 25	William Allen (79) and Abraham Warford (c. 57) adjusted their common property boundary in preparation for a sale to Henry Peterson (below)
	Mar 30	Henry Peterson purchased 150 acres of Red Hill from William Allen; at the same time he mortgaged the property to Gabriel Fox for about half the purchase price.
	Dec 16	Grandson William (later "Uncle Billy") born to son Joseph Allen (26) and Fannie Wright (24) in Loudoun County.
1791	Apr 14	David Allen (46) and Ephraim Herriott (56) jointly purchased 195 acres in Hampshire County, Virginia from John Forman . The ownership was specifically designated as "tenants in common," not joint tenancy. Herriott got 3/4 of the land; Allen 1/4.
1792	—	Grandson Joseph Allen born to son David Allen (47) and Elizabeth Wright (23) in Hampshire County
	Mar 5	William Allen (81) sold 100 acres of Red Hill to John (22) and Christopher (25) Skillman (sons of John Skillman who died in 1777)
	Apr 9	William Allen asked the Loudoun County Court for an injunction to stay a judgment against him in favor of William Smalley , who had sued him for non-payment for the mare back in 1787. The suit dragged on and eventually was dismissed September 9, 1794.
	Jun 1	Joshua Smalley sold a mare and "a parcel of wheat" that was stored on Joseph Allen's Plantation to Joseph Lewis, Sr.
	Nov 20	Grandson John Allen born to son Joseph Allen (28) and Fannie Wright (26) in Loudoun County. (John was the only one of their ten children not to marry and have children of his own. He was killed by a falling tree at age twenty.)
1793	Jan 24	Son James Allen (24) married Elizabeth (Betsy) Lee (18) .
1794	—	Grandson Asa Everett Allen born to son David Allen (49) and Elizabeth Wright (25) in Hampshire County. (Five more children were born to them after William Allen died.)
	Oct 5	Grandson David Allen born to son Joseph Allen and Fannie Wright in Loudoun County.
1796	Oct 8	William Allen (85) made out his will, which gave money to son David and daughter Elizabeth Furman ; land to sons Joseph and James . James and his wife Elizabeth were to be co-executors. Debts due from Henry Peterson and a pending suit against him by his brother David's executors were referred to.
	Dec 24	Henry Peterson sold his 150 acres to David Lee , Elizabeth Lee's father.
1797	Jun 22	Sarah Cox Beekman Allen (70) died.
	Oct 29	Grandson Robert born to son Joseph Allen (33) and Fannie Wright (31) in Loudoun County. (Robert was next in our line. Four more children were born to them after William Allen died.)
1799	Jun 9	William Allen (88) died at Red Hill Plantation; sources say he was buried in church yard in Gum Spring, alongside his wife Sarah (and some say his 2 nd wife Jane Warford, though she probably died in New Jersey).
	Dec 16	Will of Gabriel Fox recorded with the Hampshire County Court
1800	Jul 14	Will of Ephraim Herriott recorded with the Hampshire County Court
	—	Son Joseph Allen (36) sold his 100 acre plantation to his half-brother James (31) and moved to Clark Co. KY, near Mt. Sterling.
1803	Sep 13	Will of Robert Wright recorded with the Hampshire County Court. In this will he left one or two slaves "already in their possession" to each of his children.
1804	Apr 16	Son David Allen and his wife Elizabeth Wright sold their Hampshire County property to William Fox (Gabriel Fox's son) and soon thereafter

moved to Bourbon County, Kentucky. With this move, the only Allens left in Virginia were **James**, his wife Elizabeth Lee, and their children. Red Hill Plantation remained in the Allen family until 1884.

It is fascinating that so many of the elder generation in this tightly knit constellation of families died at the close of the 18th century: **Sarah Cox Allen (1797 @ 71)**, **William Allen (1799 @ 88)**, **Gabriel Fox (1799 @ 63)**, **Ephraim Herriott (1800 @ 65)**, **Abraham Warford (1802 @ c. 69)** and **Robert Wright. (1803 @ 79)**¹ especially since they were of somewhat diverse ages. Many of their children had not survived even to that point, but those that did, for the most part, went on to live several decades into the 19th century. Once the older generation had died off, most of them headed out west to start building all over again. It really begins to look like a watershed of sorts—as if the participants had a sense of the transition that had taken place during the last 25 years of the century and either bowed out or forged ahead, depending on whether they felt they had a place in the coming century. (This would seem like the worst kind of sappiness, except that we know from many sources that the people of this time were very conscious of what they had accomplished in the Revolution—that is, of the ideological significance of it. And when we consider that so many of the early presidents managed to die on July 4th,² one begins to wonder...)

Stay tuned for my efforts to weave all of this into a creditable narrative. —DA

¹ Not to mention some other noted Virginians: George Washington (December 14, 1799 @ 68), Francis Lightfoot Lee (January 11, 1797 @ 63) and Patrick Henry (June 6, 1799 @ 63), who died in Charlotte County at his own Red Hill Plantation.

² Adams, Jefferson, and Monroe