

Prairie View

Homer, Ogden, Broadlands, Sidney, Allerton
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Allerton Illinois



**The Homer Historical Society
500 East 2nd Street
Homer, IL 61849**

President's Message

Winter 2021-22

In this issue, we print from the archives articles about Allerton, a neighboring town southeast of Homer. Allerton was born of the great Broadlands ranch of Michael Sullivant created in 1853 that stretched from southwestern Vermilion county west into present South Homer, Ayers, and Raymond townships. Settlement began when the sections of land were sold to individual settlers in the 1870s and 1880s, but large sections were purchased by farmer, industrialist, and investor Samuel W. Allerton, the town's namesake.

The generosity of Samuel Allerton enabled the town to grow and thrive years after his death in 1914. Today, the Allerton name is known in central Illinois for his son Robert's gift to the University of Illinois of Allerton Park in Piatt County.

Here we present several pieces about Allerton taken from original sources. "Allerton as is Was and is Now" was printed in the *Allerton Times* in 1907 and remains the best early history of the town and deserves a reexamination. The measure of Mr. Allerton was expressed in one of his laudatory obituaries published in the *Inter-Ocean* published in Chicago. We present a part of that here as a testament to a young boy who wanted to leave a legacy for others. One of Allerton's events is chronicled from 1930 in the robbery of the State Bank of Allerton.

The society has begun working to clean and rearrange our museum on Main street in Homer. We expect in the coming year to have more open house days and to show exhibits on eastern Champaign county's history.

In our Research Room in Homer's village hall, we continue to work on the Grand Army of the Republic cemetery records. A new refurbished cemetery directory will be constructed to replace the old directory of the over 3600 burials. We will also publish an updated list of the burials. A history of the GAR cemetery was featured in our last quarterly.

Should you have anything to contribute in the way of photographs and documents related to the history of eastern Champaign County, we would be honored to store them for future generations to share in our areas past.

Raymond K. Cunningham, Jr.
President

Allerton as it Was and is Now

Published in *The Allerton Times* January 4, 1907

In presenting this work to our readers, we have endeavored to get the facts, but they are only reminiscences which we were able to secure from persons living in the village and may not be exactly true in regard to dates, as the old settlers, themselves, were not quite clear in their minds as to the exact dates.

The Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad was completed through to Tuscola in 1888 and in the same year the original town of Allerton was laid out. The first business firm in Allerton was the Allerton & Herron Grain Co. About the same time J. J. Southworth moved his lumber yard from Archie to this place, taking charge of both the lumber and grain business; being the first man to settle here, and the first man to buy a load of grain. Mr. T. L. Miller delivered the first load of corn to Allerton.

The first building erected in town was the storeroom built by W. P. Keys, who established the first general store. The second building was the old hotel which was destroyed by fire in 1898. Mrs. Mary Southworth had charge of the hotel and conducted it for eight years.

The first dwelling built was that of John Olson, who moved into it in the fall of 1888; they still occupy the same residence as their home. The first depot in Allerton was the old grain office, and Frank Hyde was the first agent. The depot, proper was erected late in the fall and used as such until August 1901, when it was destroyed by fire, soon after which the present one was erected.

The first blacksmith in Allerton was James Barnett, now of Indianola, who established his shop here in 1888. The first physician was Dr. S. A. Coffman, now practicing in Kansas. The first hardware store was established in 1888 by S. S. Shaw, in the building recently occupied as a telephone exchange. Mr. Shaw was also the first postmaster of Allerton. The first public hall was erected by W. G. Herron and was used for church and Sabbath school and all public meetings. Rev. Charles Draper was the first minister. Soon after forming the first church organization from which was evolved the present M. E. church. The Sabbath school was organized at the same time and William Coolley was its first superintendent.

The first death in Allerton was that of Peter Ford, father of George Ford, who died quite suddenly while in the restaurant of Wm. S. Brown. The first birth in Allerton was a child of S. S. Shaw.

The first marriage in Allerton was that of Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Ford, who are still living here and are now proprietors of the Leland Hotel.

The Cumberland Presbyterian church was organized in 1891. The church building was erected in the fall of the same year; it was dedicated November 8 of the same year. E. M. Johnson was the first minister of that church.

The Methodist Episcopal church was erected in the fall of 1891 and was dedicated by Bishop Bowman, January 17, 1892, Rev. M. M. Want being the first minister of that church.

In the spring of 1902, several of the leading citizens of this place purposed incorporating the village. After an exciting election, May 6, the proposition to incorporate carried with a slight majority. On May 24, an election occurred for the purpose of electing village officers, and the following officers were elected, Wm. G. Herron, president; W. E. Cook, clerk; Geo. Allen, Sr., W. P. Keys, W. S. Brown, J. W. Wimmer, S. G. Stackhouse, W. H. Morris, trustees and J. I. Pryor, police magistrate.

In 1903 S. W. Allerton deeded a tract of land to the village to be used as a park. A man, who was an expert landscape gardener, was sent from Chicago and spent several weeks in arranging the park.

After the park had been graded, the village purchased shrubbery and shade trees and the citizens assisted in setting out the same. James Hardman was then employed to take care of the park. Mr. Hardman kept the park until the summer of 1905 at which time his health gave away and Winfield Smith was secured to finish the balance of the season. At the beginning of the spring of 1906, Jo Burnett, was secured to take

charge of the park and has charge of it at the present time.

The park is a lovely place lying in the northern part of the village and presents a handsome appearance at almost any month in the summer, as there are many flowers in bloom all the time. To the ladies is due the credit of arranging and planting these flowers, for at the beginning of the season they meet and oversee this work.

One of the first ordinances adopted by the village board was one requiring building of permanent sidewalks, and any stranger coming into our village can at once see the wisdom of such course. At the present time Allerton has over three-and one-half miles of concrete sidewalks which enables one to go any place in the village without wading mud.

In addition to the fine sidewalks built in town, about seven years ago, S. W. Allerton furnished the gravel and had it hauled on the main streets. We have, at the present time, nearly three-fourths of a mile of gravel roads.

The population of Allerton at the present time is 400 and the village incorporation covers an area of about two miles.

The citizens of town are public spirited and always at the front in any enterprise for the betterment of the town's welfare.

At present, the citizens are contemplating the placing of a public reading room with a gymnasium and bathroom in connection, for the purpose of furnishing a place where the boys and young men may spend a quiet evening, beneficially. It is also the intention of the promoters that the doors of the reading rooms shall be opened a couple of days each week for the exclusive use of the ladies of the village.



The Allerton public school was built by Frank Gray of Danville in the fall of 1893.

The Hon. W. G. Herron was the founder of the town, and to his influence, energy and foresight is due the credit of the beautiful little village of Allerton—one of the most up to date and picturesque little towns in eastern Illinois.

Mr. Samuel W. Allerton of Chicago, for whom the town was named, has also done a great many things for his namesake of which we will make mention in other places.

The present village board is W. S. Wimmer, president, Sam. G Stackhouse, Wm Hunt, Gus Anderson, J. W. Wimmer, and S. H. Ford, trustees; Frank Parham, clerk, I. M. Gray, police magistrate. There being one vacancy on the board caused by Wm. P. Keys moving from town.

The village has the following secret societies, Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen, Knights of Pythias, and Loyal Americans. The latter not having regular meeting, however.

The Public Schools.

The original school building of this district stood on the east side of the road, one mile north of the present town. In 1892, the building was moved to the village and school was held in it the year 1892 and 1893. In the spring of 1893, a petition to consolidate this district with the one on the south known as the Brown school was circulated and securing the required number of signers, was presented to the board of trustees who acted favorably upon it. It was then purposed to issue bonds to build a new schoolhouse.

At this time, Mr. S. W. Allerton came forward with a proposition to donate \$2,500 for the purpose of building a schoolhouse provided the building erected should cost \$5,000. There was issued \$3,000 worth of bonds, for this purpose and Dr E I Hardman purchased them. The building was begun the summer of 1893 and completed during the winter.

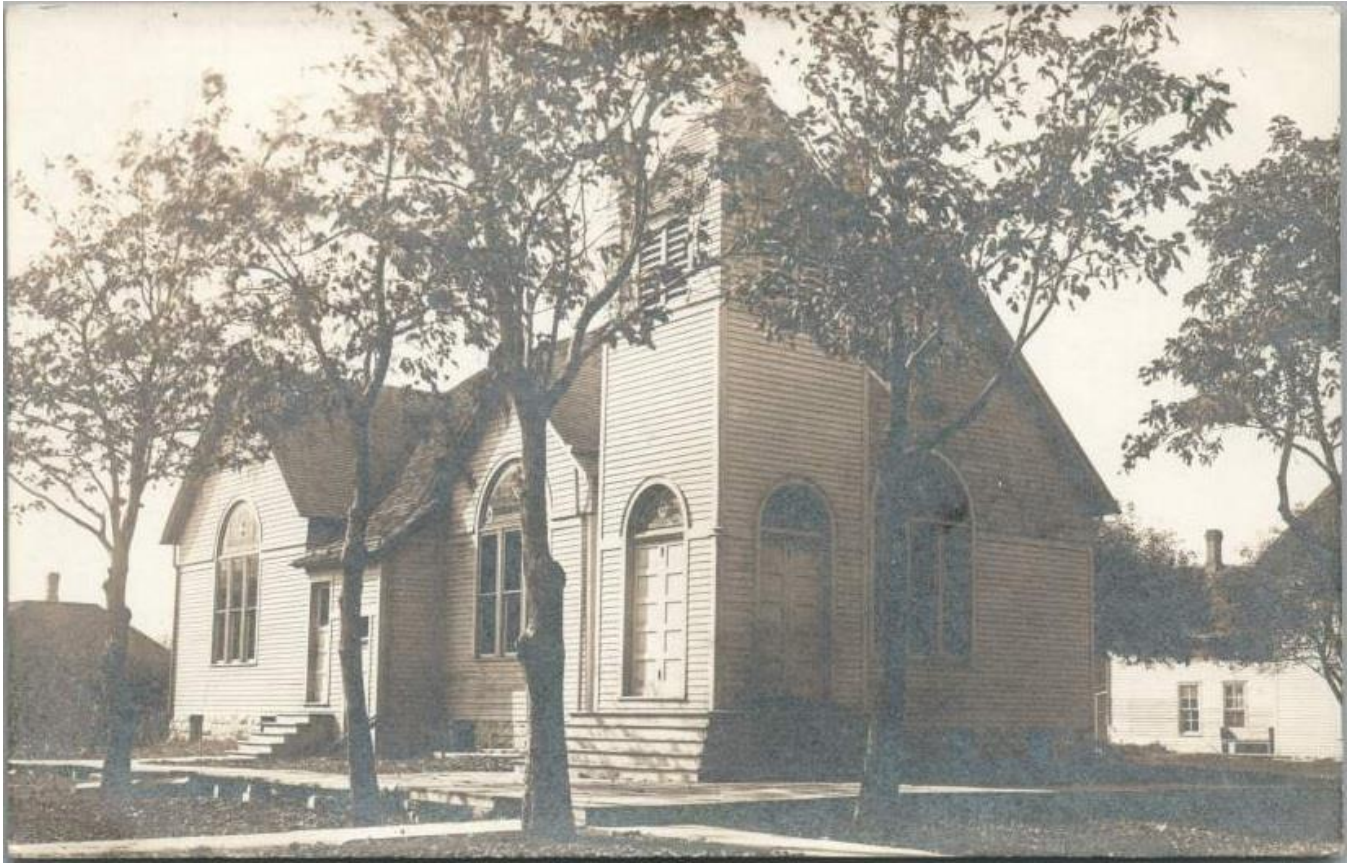
The first teachers were Charles Smeeton, principal, and Miss E. Mosier primary. The directors at the time of building were Jos. Warters, now of Jamacia, J. H. Herron now of Chicago, and George Allen, Sr, now of Nebraska. In the fall of 1901, Mrs. Allerton put in the equipment for domestic science and employed a teacher, but in 1905 on account of the crowded condition of the other rooms this department was discontinued and a fourth teacher installed. The present board of directors is composed of Gus Anderson, David Eaton, and Robert N. Jones.

The present corps of teachers is Miss Florence Eaton, primary; Miss Cora Bruno, intermediate; Chas Wilson, grammar, and W H Funk, principal. The Allerton school has always been one of the best schools in the county, its pupils passing central and final examinations and also successfully passing teachers' examinations.

The Churches.

The Presbyterian church of Allerton was organized June 25, 1891, by Rev. E. M. Johnson. It was then the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and its charter members were, M. L. Camerer, Susan Camerer, M. C. Thulberry, M. S. Thulberry, A. C. Thulberry, D. Haves, M. Pearson, C. C. Keys, M. A. Brown, A. M. Brown, Mr. M. Brown, A. Coggshall, M. C. Coggshall. Mrs. A. A. Brown, America Camerer, Mrs. J Anderson and Lillie E. Pugh, A. C. Thulberry, and M. L. Camerer were the first elders. The first one to be received into the church and baptized was Miss Dora E. Brown. On July 9, 1891, at a meeting of the congregation at the residence of M. L. Camerer, A. B. Coggshall, W. P. Keys and Wm. Brown were appointed a building committee, and the congregation proceeded at once to building of the present church edifice. In the spring of 1892, Rev. L. W. Madden was called and served the church very acceptably for one year. Since then, though there have been several changes, the pulpit has been ably filled and the congregation has grown in numbers and influence, and many have been blessed by its services. By the action of the Cumberland General Assembly, it became part of the reunited Presbyterian church in the

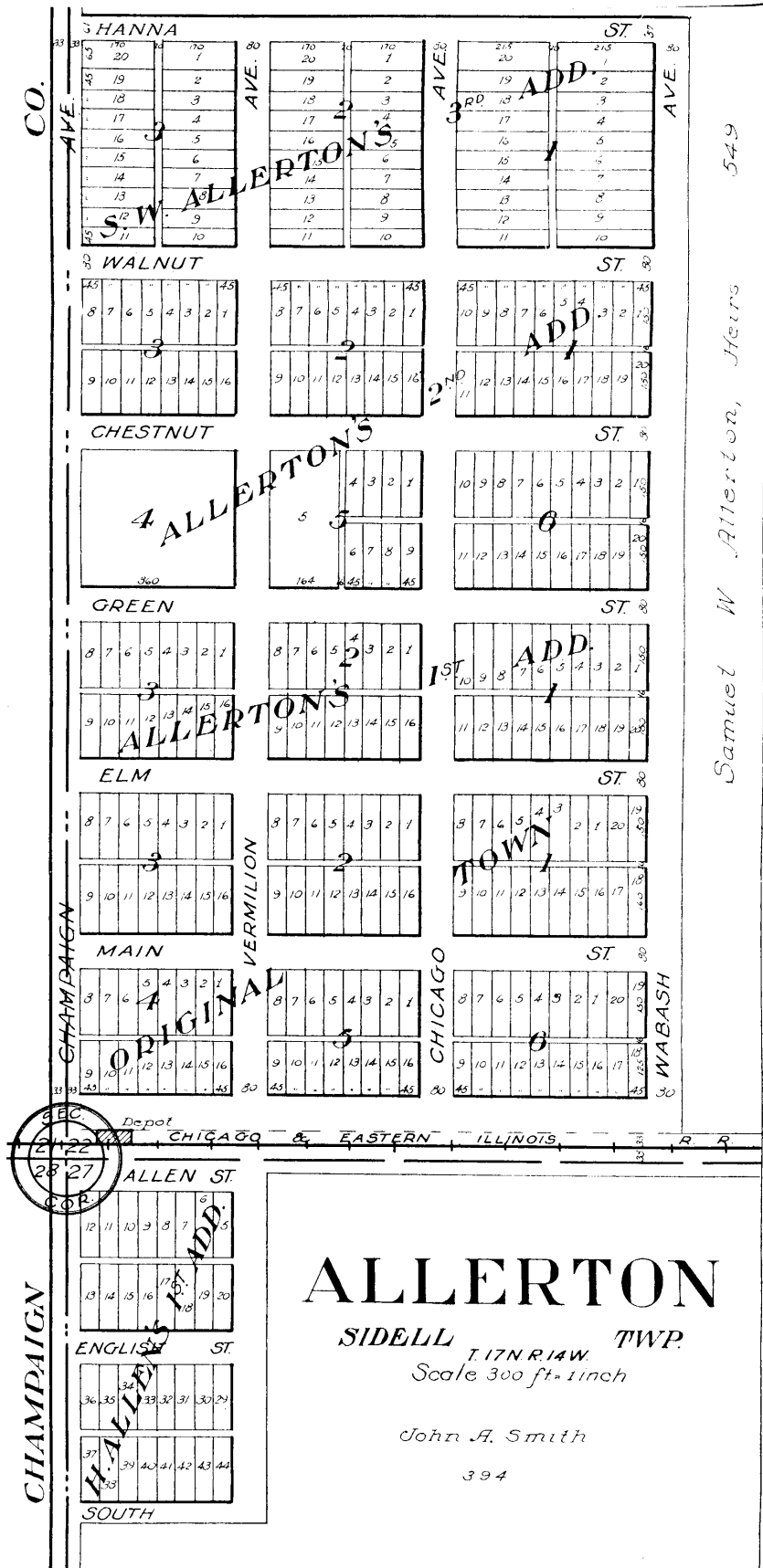
United States of America. The present pastor took charge May 20, 1906. Since which time there has been twelve additions to the church and steady progress in its work; besides the building of a substantial addition to the "manse." The church has an up-to-date Sunday school, enrolling about 100 members and with both Home Department and Cradle Roll is doing an excellent work. Miss Margaret Thulberry is the efficient superintendent. Other organizations within the church are as follows: Ladies' Aid Society, Ladies' Missionary Society, Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, and Presbyterian Brotherhood. All these are in prosperous condition and doing effective work. The prospects of the church are excellent, and that its career thus far may be, but the beginning of a long and blessed history is the prayer of its members and well-wishers.



Allerton's Methodist Church *Postcard*

The M. E. Church at this place was organized in 1888 by Rev. C. Draper has served as pastor for some time, the hall erected by W. G. Herron was used for a meeting place. Rev. Draper was succeeded by A. C. Murrey, who served one year. The next year Rev M. M. Want was sent here and under his pastorate the present edifice was erected, during the fall and early winter of 1891. The church was dedicated by Bishop Bowman Jan 17, 1892. The church has had besides the above pastors, F. C. Reed, Theo Kemp, H. L. Mitchell, J. A. Ellis, J. B. Pawson, Sheridan Phillips and the present pastor.

In the summer of 1900, the parsonage was burned and with it all the early church records, J. A. Ellis being pastor at the time. This church has a splendid Sunday school with about a 100 in regular attendance. Wm H. Morris is superintendent. They also have Sunday school teacher meetings, and a Home



Samuel W. Allerton, Heirs 549

Plat of Allerton from the 1915 Standard Atlas of Vermilion County Illinois page 131

Department in connection with the Sunday school teacher meetings, and a Home Department in connection with the Sunday school. There are also Ladies Aid Society, Ladies Foreign Missionary Society, and an Epworth League Society, and Junior Epworth League, but the latter has not met for several months. There has been recently organized a Wesleyan Brotherhood, which is acting in connection with the Presbyterian brotherhood for the reading room. The women of the church conduct a weekly prayer circle which meets Wednesday afternoon of each week with one of the members. The members of this church support four missionaries in the foreign fields, besides the money given to the general missionary fund. The Juniors support an India orphan besides other work. At the present time the church is in the midst of a revival which the members are praying will result in great good for the Master, S. W. Allerton & Co.

Bankers.

The Allerton bank was organized in 1892 with S. W. Allerton of Chicago as president and J. H. Herron cashier. The brick building now occupied by the butcher shop was built for the bank. Mr. Herron remained as cashier until 1896, when he resigned in favor of his brother, E. S., who remained in charge until 1899. At this time James Ownby, came from Monticello and placed in charge. - He remained until 1901 when he was succeeded by Ralph Greene. Mr. Greene remained in that connection until April 1904, at which time R. E. Burger took charge.

In the fall of that year, they opened a savings bank in connection, and it is proving a drawing card to small depositors.

The building now occupied by the bank was erected in 1894. The business of this bank has steadily increased each year, and under the able management of the present cashier it has made the past year a banner one. Mr. Burger is a courteous gentlemen, one with whom it is a pleasure to do business.

Notable Members of the Allerton Community

Harry Parish.

Was born in what is now known as Grape Creek, then called Hawbuck, August 9, 1859. His early life was spent laboring on a farm in that vicinity. In February, 1882, he was married to Miss Emma Brown. In 1889 Mr. Parish moved to Allerton and worked for some time at the carpenter trade. In 1897 he purchased the hardware and implement business from Warters Bros then in the old telephone building. He moved to his present quarters in 1899 occupying at that time the building in which his hardware stock now is. In a short time the business needed additional room and he built the room on the north in which he carries his implements. A few years ago he found he still needed more room, and purchased the building on the corner of Main street and Vermilion avenue, in which he displays buggies. When Mr. Parish purchased the hardware and implement business he determined to make it second to none in this part of the country. He has added as he saw the needs until he has a complete line of hardware and implements. Among the first things, he secured the agency for the Deering binders, mowers and rakes. He handles a complete line of well supplies. In his ware room at all times may be found a nice line of buggies, carriages and the renowned Peter Schutler wagon. He is also agent for the International Harvest Co's gasoline engines. In his harness room he employs two expert harness makers, who are constantly employed in making harness. Mr. Parish takes pride in his harness, and when he puts

out a set of harness they are from the best leather, first class workmanship and true to name—hand made—which is the best.

[Harry Parish took his own life on June 19, 1931 in his office. He had been suffering from the effects of an automobile accident two years earlier. He was the father of Homer's Bart Parish who also took an interest in community affairs.]

W. H. Morris

An Illinoisian by birth, being born in Paris in 1867. The spring he was 19 his father died, and his mother and family moved to a farm near Hume where he received his education as a farmer. Mr. Morris was married to Miss Mary Jones Feb 27, 1895. In 1899 having purchased a farm west of Palermo, they moved upon it and lived there one year, but having purchased the lumber business at this place he moved here in September. In March 1903, in connection with R N Jones, he purchased the general store of S W Allerton known as the Cash Store. He sold his interest to his partner in January retiring from the firm. Mr. Morris is prominent in church work being superintendent of the Methodist Sunday school in this place.

[William Henry Morris died September 19, 1941 in Allerton. He was a former mayor, president of the State Bank of Allerton and, despite being blind, managed to continue working until his death.]

Etta Smith.

Etta Smith was born on a farm two miles south of Broadlands in 1884. Her parents moved to Allerton in 1898. Miss Etta graduated from the Allerton schools, being one of the members of the class of 1905. After her graduation she entered the employ of Harry Parish as bookkeeper and assistant postmistress. In her work she is painstaking and thorough. The patrons of the post office are perfectly satisfied, and the post office inspect has complimented her upon the neatness of her books and the prompt and efficient care of the office.

[Etta Smith married Roy Overman in 1907, and the Overmans had two children, Hazel and James. Roy and Etta died together at a railroad crossing in Indianapolis June 9, 1938. They are buried in the Fairfield cemetery.]

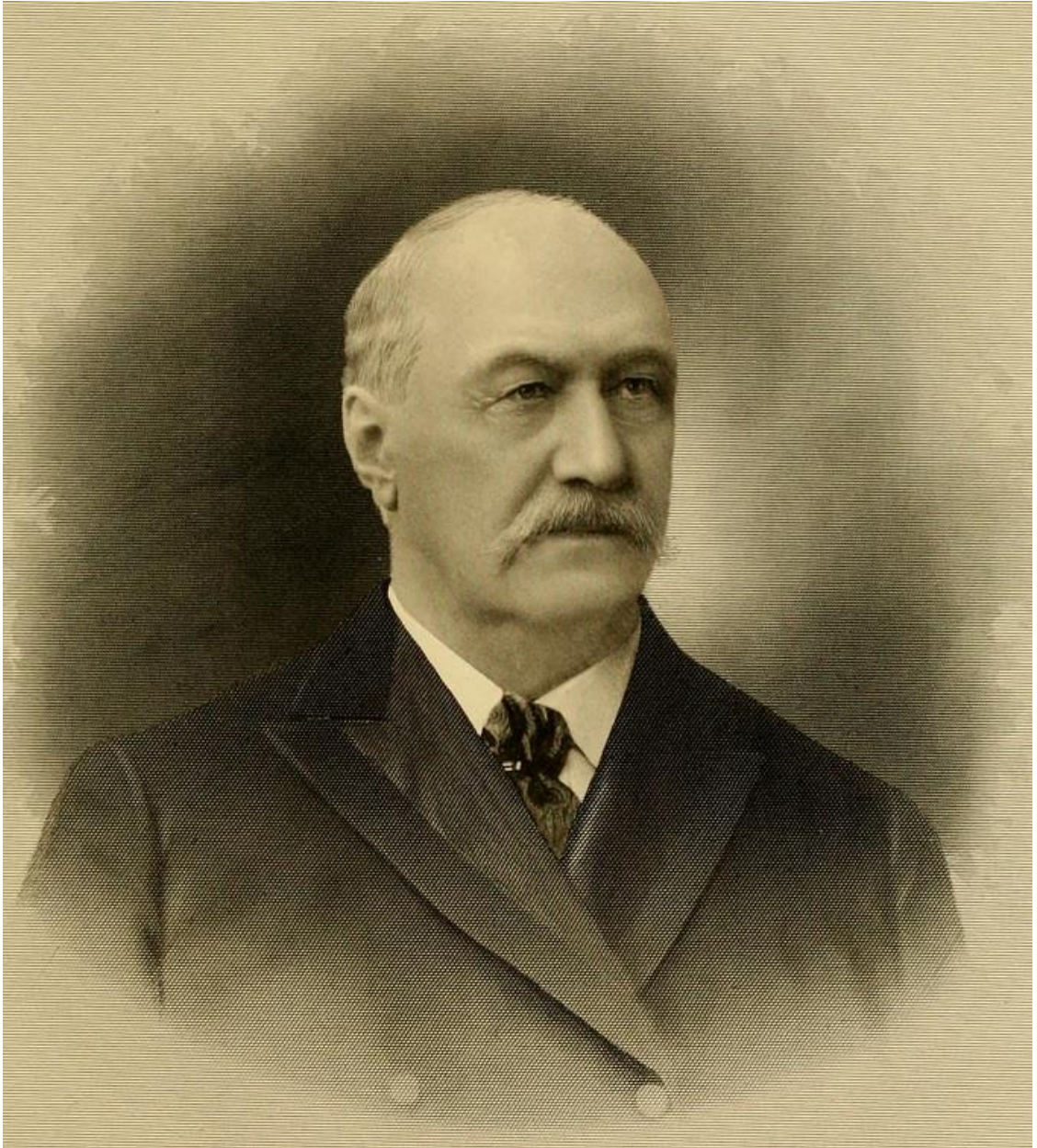
C. B. Monroe

Was born in Florence, Ind, Jan 4, 1863; moving with his mother to a farm near Ames Chapel in 1886. After seeing his mother safely settled, he returned to Indiana, and went to work on the river where he had spent a considerable portion of his life, this time as steward on a boat. He returned to Illinois in 1864. January 17, 1895, he was married to Miss Mary Adams of Madison, Ind. In 1896 he moved to Allerton and farmed one of the Allerton farms. In 1903, he purchased the grocery and restaurant business of W. S. Brown. He has had a great deal of experience in the restaurant business—especially cooking. He served hot lunches at any hour. He has a nice line of staple groceries. At present, he is building a residence on Main street which will soon be ready for occupancy.

[Caleb Brandon Monroe died July 10. 1946 in Allerton.]

Samuel W. Allerton

The town of Allerton was named for Samuel Waters Allerton, founder of the Chicago Stock Yards as well as stockyards in Pittsburgh and St. Louis. His interest included banking and large tracts of farmland in Vermilion county. He owned a summer residence near Sidell and was a founder of the Allerton National Bank. He gave the funds for the Allerton public schools and the purchase of land for village use. Samuel W. Allerton is remembered in central Illinois for Allerton Park, built by his son Robert at the time of his father's death.



Samuel Waters Allerton – Allerton's Namesake

Illustration from The Past and Present of Vermilion County Illinois, page 1025

The following is taken from Samuel Allerton's obituary in the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* February 24, 1914. The measure of this man was described by those who knew him.

Most Progressive Farmer.

"Mr. Allerton probably was the most progressive farmer in America," said one of his friends. "He was the first man in the United States to point out the fact that the farmers were robbing their soil – taking off big crops and putting nothing back. Soil building instead of soil robbing was his slogan."

One fact but little known was that Mr. Allerton owned more acres of developed farm land there than any other man in the country. He farmed thousands of acres.

"And I make them pay me well," Mr. Allerton told his friends. "I keep them up and I watch them and plan for them. Why, we know just what field will be plowed and just what kind of a crop we will grow on it twenty years ahead."

Once when asked how he became so deeply interested in farm life, he replied:

"I stayed on the farm from the time I was born until I was 26 years old; and never, since the day I left have I been without a farm of my own or passed a year without eating a good many meals from some farmer's table."

Interested in Hospitality

This phase of hospitality always interested the pioneer packer. One day he took a city friend to visit a farm he wanted him to see.

"I don't suppose we'll get much to eat here." The friend suggested, as they stepped from their buggy; "but we can get a real meal when we get back to the city." Mr. Allerton smiles.

"If you feel hungry," he said, "when we get through you can eat at Delmonico's."

"And I wish you could have seen this man's face," chuckled the packer in relating the incident. "That farmer made Delmonico look cheap. We had thirty-six different kinds of things to eat that noon and they were all on the table at one time. My friend had indigestion for a week, but he had learned how farmers live."

Those who knew the financier best declare that he had a sentimental streak as long as the roads which wound through his farms. Once each year, on the Allerton places, their owner conducted a ceremony which was, in short, a memorial to his boyhood. This ceremony consisted in planting fruit trees along every roadside, outside of the fences.

Took Supply of Apples.

"You see," Mr. Allerton would say when asked about the rite, "when I was a very little kid I drove a herd of sheep into town for my father. It was mighty hot and dusty and just about the time I figured there wasn't much left of my bare legs I saw an orchard full of apples. It didn't take me long to get a hat full of the fruit. "On my way back home I met a farmer who gave me a ride. As luck would have it, he stopped at the farm where I had taken the apples, and in the course of the conversation the farmer learned that I had raided his orchard.

"Son," he said, "I don't care a snap whether you eat my apples or not, but don't you think you might better have asked my permission?"

"Ever since then," said Mr. Allerton, "I have thought of other little boys and long walks and hot, dusty roads with fruit trees. A boy doesn't have to ask anybody when he wants an apple. He just helps himself, because, you see, the trees aren't on anybody's land."

The Gangster Era in Allerton

It was the era of bank robberies, and while the press followed gangsters such as John Dillinger, “Pretty Boy” Floyd, and Bonnie and Clyde, others decided to take up the profession. On September 3, 1930, robbers entered the First National Bank in Homer and made off with approximately \$6,000 in currency. The robbery caused other local banks to increase security. Soon it was the turn of the State Bank of Allerton. These are the original accounts of events in Allerton in 1930.

Allerton Bank Bandits Elude Pursuing Cars Escape With \$4,353.70 While Posses Ride Highways To Cut Them Off.

Saturday, October 11, 1930, pages 1 & 2 *Danville Commercial-News*

No trace of the bandits who kidnapped the cashier of the state bank of Allerton Friday afternoon and escaped with \$4,353.70 after locking up assistant cashier and one of the bank directors, had been found up to a late hour Saturday. Although officers followed up Friday night on a number of clues.

The robbery was committed a few minutes before 3 o'clock Friday afternoon, two men entering the bank while a third stayed at the wheel of a Chevrolet car, parked nearby. The cashier, Ora C. Hayes, was kidnapped by the bandits and taken to the west to Route 49, at west of Allerton where he was let out of the car and told to enter a field and not to look.

Miss Mary Hansen, assistant cashier, and Joe Phelan, director of the bank, were locked in the vault. Miss Hansen sounded the burglar alarm, and they were soon released. A posse quickly formed to chase the fleeing bandits. The posse lost sight of the bandit car southwest of Fairmount, when it turned into a side road.

Stop Danville Woman

Mrs. Charles Lenz, of Danville, who was on her way to Jamaica shortly after 3 o'clock Friday afternoon, was stopped near Fairmount by three men in a light coupe, who inquired if she had seen a grey sedan anywhere on the road. She told them she had not and they told her to go on. The men were armed, she said, one of them having a sawed-off shotgun.

It is believed that these men staged the robbery and that they were at that time looking for a car they had to “switch to.”

The car used in the robbery has been identified as belonging to C. Huston, of Decatur, who was held up Thursday night. His car was a Chevrolet coupe. The robbers drove east from Decatur after taking the car. Officers in a number of towns and cities have been asked to be on the lookout for this car, as it is believed the bandits abandoned it as soon as possible.

The kidnapped man observed one of the bandits appeared to be about 30 years old and that all three were coatless.

One Stays In Car.

But two of the bandits entered the bank, the third remaining at the wheel of the auto. Hayes and Miss Hansen were both “covered” with revolvers. While one of the men locked the two in the vault the other ordered Hayes to “get him all the money there was.” Hayes gathered up all the silver and currency and turned it over to the men, who then ordered him to accompany them outside and get into their machine.

Upon climbing into the car one of the bandits covered Hayes' eyes with his hand to prevent him scrutinizing them. During his short ride with the robbers Hayes states that they carried on no conversation other than to tell him not to be afraid as they were not going to shoot him, that they were only after the money. When the burglar alarm was released four members of the town's bank guards, Charles Cunningham, Sidney Kaufman, Ford Dix and Paul Morris, gave pursuit of the bandit car in their autos. The bandits turned onto route 49 and went north until within about three miles of Homer. They then turned east on a rock road running south of Fairmount. Shortly after turning from route 49, one of the cars of the posse drew close enough to fire upon the bandits and several shots were taken at the machine in an attempt to puncture the rear tires. One of the shots struck the car it became known later, when a piece of glass about two inches long and an inch wide was found in the road near the intersection. The glass is believed to be from the rear window of the coupe. It is thought possible that one of the trio might have been struck by the bullet if the glass is from the rear window.

“Switched Cars, Relief.”

It is believed that the bandits probably “switched” automobiles after succeeding in eluding the posse as farmers residing south of Fairmount report seeing three men answering the description of the bandits driving a light roadster with the top down at a high speed. Two of the men were in the front seat of the car and the third was riding in the rumble seat.

Danville police were notified of the robbery a few minutes after it occurred, and officers were stationed at the entrance of all highways leading into the city to watch for the bandits. Special investigator William Ryan and State's Attorney Elmer Perrow went to Allerton and began an investigation.

Coupe Used By Allerton Bank Is Abandoned On Highway Near Eugene, Ind.; Was Stolen From Decatur Man.

Monday, October 13, 1930, pages 1 & 9 *Danville Commercial News*

A Chevrolet coupe belonging to C. Huston, of Decatur, stolen from the owner last Thursday night and used Friday afternoon by bandits who held up the State Bank of Allerton, escaping with \$4,353.70, has been recovered. It was found southeast of Danville, Sunday morning by boys hunting for nuts.

The boys saw the car Saturday but did not report it. When they again saw the car in the same place Sunday they reported the fact to the village marshal at Cayuga. He investigated and found it was the car sought since the robbery. He notified William Ryan, special investigator, who brought the car to the Shepard garage, Walnut street.

Find Glass Broken.

The machine was in first class condition, according to Mr. Ryan, other than having the glass in the right door broken and the glass in the rear was also damaged. A piece of glass was found on the road a few miles from Allerton after members of a posse had fired several shots at the fleeing bandits and it is believed that some of the bullets hit the door of the car. No marks of bullets were found on the car. The car was hidden from the main road and could not be seen from there. It was only after the boys had gone into the woods by the side of the road that they saw it. A copy of the Commercial-News of last Thursday, the day before the robbery, and a copy of the Chicago American of Oct. 5 were found in the car.

Cigarette stubs scattered about the place indicated that several persons had stopped at the hiding place for some time. There was no indication that the persons had built any fires for cooking, or had camped there. A high point a short distance away from the car gives a commanding view of the surrounding territory and it is believed that some members of the bandit party watched from this point for the return of the men who went out to hold up the bank. The bandits, three in number, held up the bank at Allerton a few minutes before 3 o'clock Friday afternoon, two men entering the bank and the third staying at the wheel. They took the cashier, Ora C. Hayes, with them and let him out of the machine about a mile west of Allerton. The assistant cashier, Miss Mary Hansen, and Joe Phelan, a director of the bank, were locked in the vault. Miss Hansen sounded the burglar alarm and they were soon released. A posse, hastily formed, gave chase and at one time was close enough to fire upon the fleeing bandits.

**Is Wanted here For Robbing Of Allerton Bank
Gladys Crawford, Said To Have Been Implicated In Homer Holdup, Is With Him.**

Tuesday, December 22, 1930, page 1 & 5 *Danville Commercial-News*

Glen Nichols, under indictment here for the holdup of the State Bank of Allerton on Oct. 10, last, is under arrest in Chicago, as is also two women said to have been implicated in the robbery of the bank at Homer on Sept. 9, according to a telephone message received late Monday night by Sheriff F. W. Ward. Sheriff Ward and Deputy Sheriff William Ryan left on an early morning train Tuesday for Chicago to bring the two back to Danville. George Slade, arrested at El Paso on Oct. 25, and brought to Danville a week later, is still in jail awaiting trial. One of the men indicted for the Allerton robbery, Harold Smith, is still at large.

License Brings Capture.

According to the information received in Danville an officer in Chicago saw a car traveling down the street bearing Illinois license number 1 413 572, the number sent out shortly after the Allerton robbery. Hailing a policeman close by, the two gave chase and overtook Nichols and Miss Crawford and placed them under arrest. The local officers were immediately notified.

At the time of the arrest of Slade and Mary Nichols in El Paso, Tex., in October, it was learned that both Nichols and Smith also had been in the Texas city but officers were unable to get any further trace of them after the arrest of Slade. Descriptions of the three men, together with a description of the automobile and the license number, were sent to every sheriff's office in the country and also to police headquarters in a number of cities.

It was believed a short time ago that Nichols and Smith were again working in northern Illinois, but the officers never confirmed this report. How long they stayed in Texas is not known.

By means of photographs persons who saw the three men in Allerton identified them as George Slade, Harold Smith and Glen Nichols. So far as could be learned Mary Nichols and Gladys Crawford were not connected with the Allerton robbery, but officials say they have been identified as being the two women who waited in an automobile in Pilot township until the men got back from robbing the Homer bank.

Editor's Note: The names vary depending on the account. Austin and Harmon Corray were paroled in July 1944. Harmon Corray died in July 1950 and Austin Corray died in July 1968. Both had minor problems with the law after parole.

Ora C. Hays remained a cashier at the Allerton State Bank and died of a heart attack at the age of 56 in January 1941. He was a member of the town board and a member of the high school board in Allerton.

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