



City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society P.O. Box 875, San Bernardino, CA 92402

LIBRARY NEWS FEBRUARY 2007

By Richard D. Thompson, Librarian

Legare Allen

Back in November Steve Shaw received the following email message:

From: Stratmann <stratmax@ntelos.net>
Date: November 17, 2006 9:22:05 PM PST
To: sbhistoricalsociety@mac.com
Subject: S.B. Pioneer Society

I am working on a genealogy for my father. His g.grandfather was Legare Allen b.Oct 22, 1843, long time San Bernardino resident, county clerk and according to one obit President of the S.B. Pioneer society. He died in Jan 30, 1922. I was wondering if the historical society had anything of genealogical interest concerning Legare. I do have an excellent picture of him if you would like a copy.

Suzanne Keddie

Steve forwarded the message to me (Richard Thompson). After determining that her basic facts were correct I wrote back that we would indeed like to have a copy of the photograph. Legare Allen was the President of the Pioneer Society for a full term in 1921, and he had just begun his second term when he died. The Pioneer Minutes Books have information on him, including his newspaper obituary. When the photo arrived together with some genealogical data I wrote:

Dr. Keddie,

Your package arrived today with everything in good shape. Thank you for the photograph of our member, Legare Allen, and the accompanying genealogy. On reading your letter I checked the "Great Register of Voters 1886-1890," and find that Legare gave the following information to the registrar: Age 44, Birth Place, MI, Residence-Occupation SB Druggist, signed 29 Mar 1886. In a San Bernardino Directory for 1887, Legare Allen is listed as being the "county recorder, office Court House bet 3rd and 4th, res 33 E bet 2nd and 3rd." Right below him in the directory is Lucius G. Allen, listed as carrying "Books, Stationery and Notions, 187 3rd bet D and E..."

The San Bernardino *Courier* for Jan 1, 1891 has a story about Lucius, and Legare is identified as his brother-in-law (attached). They were evidently partners in the book business for a while, but the facts don't seem to match with the 1887 Directory very well. I haven't studied it closely though; maybe you can figure it out.

Thursday I will be going to San Bernardino and I'll check the Pioneer Minutes book for the appropriate dates (obituary and presidency).

Thanks again,

Richard

The Courier newspaper story is mostly about Legare's brother-in-law Lucius, but it does have some pertinent information:

San Bernardino *Courier*, January 1, 1891

WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY ENERGY, PLUCK AND FAIR DEALING

L. G. Allen came to San Bernardino in 1876, when but a young boy. He attended our public schools under Professor Charles R. Paine, now of Crafton. At the end of one year, His father, Rev. G. W. Allen, bought a man's claim to 80 acres of government land at Highland. The influential old settlers went to Mr. Allen and told him that the land was a dry desert and worthless; that City creek often dried up, and that he would lose both time and money. Mr. Allen replied that he had a son who knew how to work, and would try it. He built a house and moved on the ranch in 1876, and placed his son Lucius in charge. The summer of 1877 come near proving the old settler's warning true. City creek dried up and Lucius hauled water from Harlem springs, two miles and a half, to keep alive 300 trees that had been planted that spring,. The season was very hot, and nearly one half of the trees died. But that did not discourage Mr. Allen. More trees were bought and planted, ground cleared, graded and set to oranges, raisin grapes, alfalfa and grain. On March 1879, Elder Allen was taken ill, and after eleven days of intense suffering, died. A few days before his death he called his son Lucius, and said: "I cannot live long and I want you to take care of grandma (Ms. Nancy Allen) and mother while they live." Lucius said, "I will;" and for twelve years has kept his promise. His grandmother died last February at the age of nearly eighty-nine years. His mother and sister still live with him at 653 Third Street. In December, 1881, Lucius, not being satisfied with his education, sold the farm at Highland for \$5,000, and moved, with his mother, to San Jose, where he and his sister, Mrs. Arthur, attended the State Normal school. While in the high middle class Mr. Allen assisted a school mate, who had granulated eyelids, to place the medicine on them and caught the disease, losing his sight for nearly six months. The doctors recommended him to go to the mountains. He moved his folks to Mariposa, and took up land to make a home, but finding the weather too cold and the snow too deep, after proving up on the land, he moved back to San Bernardino, and on February 20, 1886, with his brother-in-law, Legare Allen, rented forty feet on the west side of his store of Mr. Truman Reeves. On June Mr. Allen bought his partner out, and the following year rented sixty feet on the west side of the store. When Mr. Reeves went out of business in February, 1889, Mr. Allen rented the entire store, and today his store is crowded with books, stationery, notions and musical goods, packed closely on both sides, with counters and tables loaded occupying the center of the store. Thus is a sample of what a man can do who has pluck, push and perseverance, and who does unto the people as he would like them to do by him.

I found Legare Allen's second marriage in the SB Valley Genealogy publication:

From "San Bernardino County Marriage Book B"

ALLEN, Legare, widower, age 33, b. MI, m, (1) Miss N. C. Martin. Emma M. ALLEN, maiden, MG. Witnesses: Will A. Harris of San Bernardino and Hiram Barton of Old San Bernardino. License issued 9 Dec and recorded 11 Dec 1876, p 423.

Allen also appeared in many early directories. However, there was a really outstanding biography of him in Brown and Boyd's "History of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties," v II, 793-795. Thanks to the contact made by Dr. Keddie we now have a decently sized file on one of our early members, who just happens to be a past president of the Society.

LUCAS HOAGLAND

A couple of months ago I was working on obtaining information about some of our earliest members (in the Pioneer Society). One of the ones I was working on was charter member Lucas Hoagland. He was a member of the Mormon battalion and one of eight battalion men buried in Pioneer Cemetery. The others are: Hamilton Swarthout, William Ezra Beckstead, Abner Blackburn, Montgomery Button, Nathan Swarthout, Albert Clark, Andrew Lytle. There are also three women, Celia Mounts Hunt, Mary Bittels Button, Harriet St. John Brown Swarthout Dewitt, and three children: Louisa Button Anderson, Jane Hunt Stoddard, Harriet Hunt Mayfield.

I went on to Ancestry.com and found a living relative of Hoagland. I contacted him hoping that he had a photograph for our files. I am trying to recover as many photos of the early pioneers following the 1973 fire at the log cabin. He emailed me a genealogy of Hoagland and a chapter from a book entitled *Bishop Jonathan H. Hale of Nauvoo: His Life and Ministry*. The author is Heber Q. Hale. Hoagland's first wife was Rachel Hale, and there is a chapter on her in the book, including a photo of her and her daughter, Olive, a photo of the daughter, Olive, as an adult, photos of Hoagland's parents, and a photo of Lucas. That photo of Rachel and her daughter has to be quite a rarity since she died in San Bernardino in 1854.

Getting these photos was quite a coup, although the copy I downloaded and printed leaves a lot to be desired from a quality standpoint. The original book was printed in 1938, but the chapter I have has some footnotes and photos from the 1990 period, so there must have been an update. I tried to find out from my source what was going on, is there a reprint, but he has not responded as yet. It may be that in order to get a decent photo somebody will have to get a scan from the original publication, and the only ones I could locate were in Utah University libraries. I contacted one library but they would not scan a copy for me.

The 1990 info had to do with the death of Rachel in 1854 and her burial south of Park. Some bodies were found there in 1989 and speculation is that one of them might be Rachel. Leo Lyman says that there were 12 bodies found and reburied across 7th St. within the cemetery, but that there were another couple dozen which were never dug up. That begs the question of how he knows how many were there if they didn't dig them up, but I didn't ask the question. All of this is now in a file in the Library.