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MEMOIR
of
COLONEL JOHN ALLAN,
An Officer of the Revolution,
BORN IN EDINBURGH CASTLE, SCOTLAND, JAN. 3, 1746.
DIED IN LUBEC, MAINE, FEB. 7, 1805.
WITH A GENEALOGY.
BY
GEORGE H. ALLAN,
OF NEW YORK.

ALBANY:
JOEL MUNSELL.
1867.
The writer desires to acknowledge the kind assistance of Frederic
Kidder, Esq., of Boston, whose valuable suggestions have materially
aided him in the preparation of the Memoir.
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MEMOIR OF COL. JOHN ALLAN.

To the American people the incidents of the revolutionary war are of peculiar and enduring interest. So much time having elapsed since the termination of that conflict, we may well believe that most of the attainable details of those eventful times have already been communicated to the public. Though the military operations of the revolution may seem comparatively insignificant when compared with the gigantic war for the Union just past, we must remember that in the events of the former period, were laid the foundations of that mighty republic, whose enduring perpetuity is now insured in the interest of free institutions and equal rights. In the present sketch, the object of the writer is to present a few incidents in the life of one of those worthy men who, in "the times which tried men's souls," stood nobly forward in the defense of liberty, and for this, sacrificed wealth, family connections and public honors. While his name is not found prominently inscribed upon the roll of the famous men of those times, or identified with any of the memorable battles of that period, it can be said of him, that in his difficult and often dangerous position, he acted well his part, and faithfully and energetically performed his duty.

John Allan was the eldest son of William Allan, one of the earliest settlers of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was born in Edinburgh Castle, Scotland, Jan. 3d, 1746, O. S. His father, William Allan, born about the year 1720, was a Scottish gentleman of means, and an officer in the British army. Tradition says his rank was that of a major. But little is known of his early history except what is learned from a family record in his own handwriting, a copy of which is appended. He married July 9th, 1744, Isabella Maxwell, daughter of Sir Eustace Maxwell, a gentleman of Scotland, and at the
time of the birth of his son, in January, 1746, he was temporarily residing in Edinburgh Castle, to which fortress his family, with others, had repaired for refuge during the troubles of the rebellion.

Peace with France being fully restored by the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, in 1748, the British government began to devise ways and means of providing for the large number of soldiers and sailors discharged from the service; and of all the plans proposed, none seemed more promising than a systematic colonization of the province of Nova Scotia, till then, though nominally a British province, inhabited only by neutral French and Indians. The government made liberal provision for all who would decide to settle in the new colony, and in 1749 under the inducements thus offered, William Allan with his wife and little son John, then but four years of age, bade adieu to his native land, and in company with more than 2,000 other settlers, sailed for America.

A brief glance at the history of Nova Scotia may be found interesting. Although the claim of England to a large part of North America depends upon the discovery of the country, in 1497, still the colonial history rests entirely on the great charter of James the 1st, April 10, 1606, by which sundry of his subjects were authorized to establish colonies between the thirty-fourth and forty-fifth degrees of north latitude. Subsequent grants to the companies of Virginia and New England extended this title as far north as the forty-eighth degree of north latitude, and over this broad belt of fourteen degrees from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean.

Under this grant, colonies had been established principally by Englishmen as far south as Florida, and at the time of which we write (1750), the English flag waved from that point, along the coast to Cape Breton. The country called Nova Scotia was occupied by the French in 1603, and a settlement made at Port Royal, and subsequently at Mount Desert. In 1613, Capt. Argal was sent to dislodge them, which he effected. In 1621, the territory was granted to Sir Wm. Alexander, secretary of state for Scotland, who gave it its present name. The name of Acadie, which was given it by the French is the Indian word for Pollock, a fish very abundant on that coast. During the next eighty years this
country had been taken and retaken alternately by the English and
French, but at the treaty of Utrecht in 1713, it was ceded by the
French to Great Britain.

The accession of George I soon followed the treaty of Utrecht,
and while great progress had been made in all the other English
colonies in America, nothing of any importance had been done in
Nova Scotia towards settling that country.

The governor resided at Annapolis Royal, a small settlement
chiefly composed of neutral French; the facility of communication
with New England enabling him to maintain his position with a few
companies of provincial troops usually supplied by the old colonies.

The necessity of a British station and military post on the
Atlantic coast of the Peninsula had long been felt; but latterly the
continued breaches of neutrality on the part of the French popula-
tion, together with the loss of Louisbourg under the treaty of Aix
la Chapelle in October, 1748, rendered such an establishment
indispensably necessary to support the dominion of the British
crown in the province.

A plan was accordingly submitted to government in the autumn
of 1748, and being warmly supported by Lord Halifax, advertise-
ments appeared in the London Gazette, in March, 1749, under the
sanction of his Majesty's authority, "holding out proper encoura-
gement to officers and private men lately discharged from the army
and navy to settle in Nova Scotia. Among other inducements, was
the offer to convey the settlers to their destination, maintain them
for twelve months at the public expense, and to supply them with
arms and ammunition for defense, and with materials and articles
proper for clearing the land, erecting dwellings and prosecuting
the fishing, and also ample grants of land. The encouragements
appeared so inviting, that in a short time 1,176 settlers with their
families, in all 2,376 persons, were found to volunteer, and the sum
of £40,000 being appropriated by parliament for the service, the
expedition was placed under the command of Colonel, the Honora-
ble Edward Cornwallis, M. P., as captain general and governor of
Nova Scotia, and set sail for Chebucto Bay, the place of destination
early in May, 1749."—Akin's History of Halifax, p. 5.

The fleet consisted of thirteen transports and a sloop of war, and
arrived in safety in the bay of Chebucto early in June, 1749. Such
was the care taken for the comfort of this large number of settlers, that but one death occurred on the passage.

During the winter months the people were kept actively employed in cutting pickets for fences, and wood for fuel, and in erecting new dwellings. Mills were established, stores opened, supplies of cattle and horses obtained from the Acadian French, and when the spring opened, grain of various sorts was sown. Deputations from the Acadian French, and also from the various Indian tribes were received, and arrangements perfected for the better management of public matters. About this time a fearful epidemic visited the colony, and nearly one thousand persons fell victims during the autumn and following winter.

In August, 1750, about 350 new settlers arrived in the ship Alderney. Most of these were sent across the river and commenced the town of Dartmouth. The next year the Indians who in consequence of the intrigues of French emissaries had become troublesome, attacked the little village at night, killed and scalped a number of the settlers, among whom was John Pyke, father of the late John George Pyke, Esq. (who afterwards married Col. Allan’s sister Elizabeth). The night was calm, and the cries of the settlers and whoops of the Indians were distinctly heard at Halifax.

It is presumed that when William Allan emigrated, he was still an officer in the British army and was on half pay. He did not remain more than three years at Halifax; for we find him in the latter part of 1752, at Fort Lawrence, on that narrow neck which connects Nova Scotia with that part of it now known as New Brunswick. What his position was, cannot now be inferred; possibly he may have been its commander, but more probably he was a subordinate officer. It is certain he remained there till 1759. It was from near this place that the Acadians were taken in 1755, by the New England forces under Gen. John Winslow, their villages destroyed, and the inhabitants removed and distributed among the colonies. Only a small part of them escaped to the woods, and those with those that managed to return, are represented by their descendants who retain the name of Acadians, with the language and many of the characteristics of their ancestors. The fall of Quebec, and consequently the surrender of all the French possessions on this continent, soon caused a great change in the affairs of Nova
Scotia. The British gave liberal grants of that part of the province from which the Acadians had been removed, and the officers of the army secured a large share of that fertile soil. A county was formed and probably named Cumberland, from the fort before mentioned. It may be stated that this was the same which Col. Eddy attempted to capture in 1776. See Eddy's letter, page 67.

It may be supposed that Wm. Allan served as an officer through the French war from 1754 to 1763, and then receiving a large grant of fertile alluvial land, which the poor Acadians had with much labor banked in, to protect it from any inroads of the bay, and commenced life as a farmer. In a few years he was known to be wealthy and prosperous; his large farm was cultivated mainly by the labor of the French Acadians, who became for a time servants to the conquerors of their own territory. He was a member of the colonial legislature, and occupied some other positions of trust and honor.

His children, nine in number, received educational advantages, and eventually became connected with the best families in the province. In religion, he was probably an Episcopalian, and was undoubtedly a man of intelligence and of energy. His wife died in 1767; he married a second time, and died some years subsequent to the close of the revolution.

Of the boyhood of his son John, the subject of this memoir but little can be gleaned, but we may suppose he early displayed indications of that vigor and self-reliance which was so characteristic of him in his manhood. It is certain that he received for that period and locality a very respectable education, of which his long and able letters give us such proofs, and from some of his papers we know he was well read in the books common at that period, particularly in English history. He was acquainted with the French

1 Cumberland county is unquestionably the most productive part of Nova Scotia, and not inferior to any portion of America, of the same extent. Here stood the two rival forts of Beau Sejour (Fort Cumberland) and Lawrence, separated from each other by the little stream of Missiquash. From the bastion of Beau Sejour Fort, there is a splendid view embracing the great Tantramar and Missiquash meadows, Barons fields, Westmoreland and the country at the foot of the Shepody mountains; vast stacks of hay cover these alluvial lands, as far as the eye can reach, and the substantial farm houses and numerous herds, bespeak the wealth and independence of the yeomanry.—Martin's History of Nova Scotia, p. 32. London, 1868.
language, which he probably learned to speak in his boyhood from the Acadians, and had some knowledge of the Indian dialects; of one of these a brief vocabulary still remains among his papers.

It has been supposed that John Allan, at some period of his early life, resided in Massachusetts to obtain his education: this is very probable. Many distinguished men were at or in the vicinity of Fort Cumberland during the removal of the Acadians, and for several years afterwards there was quite a business between there and Boston. It is very likely that his father may have desired to send him there for an education; and he would be likely to place him under the care of some gentleman whose acquaintance he had made while they were with Gen. Winslow's command at Cumberland.

The following appears to be a copy of a letter written by him, dated Cumberland, Sept. 21, 1767. It has no address, but it seems he had just returned home after a long absence, and there are indications in it which show that even then there was an estrangement on political matters between father and son. How natural that an ardent young man should have learned a lesson in political rights in Massachusetts at that period, that may have influenced his future life. This view of the case will account for his devotion to our cause, though at the expense of almost everything he held dear. It will be noted that in the letter he speaks of the death of his mother, which had occurred during his absence. He says:

"No doubt you have been informed of that Fatal Stroke which happened in my Father's Family by the Loss of so kind a Parent as my mother. Although it is the Divine Will which I ought to submit to, yet it gives me many sorrowful hours; but I have again the Satisfaction of meeting my Father. He is, at present, Indulgent, but we have never spoken upon any of our late proceedings. I am at present overlooking his Harvest, which deprives me of writing to you in such a manner as I could wish. My intention of what we have spoken upon so often is still the same, but I am prevented of proceeding in it till things are more settled."

About this time he made the acquaintance of Mary Patton, whom he soon afterwards married. It is related that, upon one occasion, she came into his father's store to make some trifling purchase with a skein of cotton thread wound loosely about her neck. He playfully tried to take it off, when she resisted, and a merry struggle
followed. From this time they became intimate, and were married Oct. 10th, 1767.

It is supposed that after his marriage, his father gave him a part of his large domain, and he commenced life in agricultural and mercantile pursuits. His farm known as "Invermary," was one of the best in the two counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland, and included 348 acres of land. Its location was seven miles from Fort Cumberland on the road to Bay Vert. Upon it, besides his own dwellings, were six or seven common country houses occupied by French Acadian families as tenants, two large barns and four smaller ones. Col. Allan also held several public positions, among which were the offices of justice of the peace, clerk of the sessions, clerk of the supreme court, &c. In the spring of 1770, he was elected a representative to the provincial assembly, which position he held till his seat was declared vacant for nonattendance June 28, 1776.

The following extract from a letter written April 5th, 1775, is signed "I. Winslow." It was no doubt from Doctor Isaac Winslow, who it seems had visited Mr. Allan, but it certainly shows that Allan had once been a resident in Massachusetts, and they had been acquainted there. Doctor Winslow graduated at Harvard College, in 1762, and settled in his native town, Marshfield, as a physician, he enjoyed a high reputation in his profession, particularly in his treatment of the small-pox. He died in 1819, aged 81. Like most of his family he was a loyalist, but resided on his estate through the war without molestation. The letter indicates his attachment to the royal cause, and however friendly they may have been, Allan could not have sympathized with him in his political sentiments.

"You enjoy in your present retired situation, many satisfactions which I do assure you, are far from general in this Country, which is now totally the reverse from : . . at Pleasant & happy part of the world which you once knew it, in the days of your youth. Instead of which, Discord & Contention seem to have joined their Banners far & wide, & I am at times ready to fear that Desolation is at their heels, & just upon the eve of taking place among us. God only knows what events may befall this Land within the Course of the ensuing Summer, but very great ones we have Sufficient reason to apprehend."
The accounts of the military operations on the 19th of April, 1775, and of the battle of Bunker Hill, soon reached Western Nova Scotia, and Mr. Allan saw, during the ensuing summer, that a decision must be made. Doubtless for some time the purpose had been forming in his mind to join the western colonies in their resistance to British tyranny, and the strength of his convictions was such, as to lead him to express his sentiments openly and fearlessly, regardless of consequences. It soon became evident that he was not to be permitted thus to give utterance to his feelings and opinions, for the provincial government began to concert measures for his apprehension, on a charge of treason to the king. His life being now in danger, he resolved to leave the province for the United States; but previous to his departure he made several excursions among the Indians to the northward, and by his influence, secured for the revolted colonies the cooperation of a large number of the Mic-Mac tribe.

These Indians, allied to the French settlers in religion as well as in arms in the French wars of 1758–1763, and looking upon the English as intruders in their country, had never regarded them with much affection, and for this reason could be readily induced to act against them. Hence their letters to congress with offers of assistance and cooperation. A fragment of a journal of Mr. Allan, still in existence, gives an interesting account of his flight to New England. He immediately began his preparations for the journey, traveling mostly by night, when compelled to be from home. He took his final departure from Cumberland on the 3d of August, 1776, with a few companions in an open boat, and after a stormy passage along the bay of Fundy, arrived at Passamaquoddy on the 11th. On the 13th, they entered Machias bay, where they saw a schooner, which proved to be from Machias with Col. Eddy and twenty-eight men on board, designing to capture Fort Cumberland. Knowing the insufficiency of this force to capture the fort or to hold it if captured, Mr. Allan endeavored to induce Col. Eddy to abandon his rash design, but without effect. The schooner went on its way, and Mr. Allan proceeded up the river to Machias. Here he conversed with Col. Shaw and Messrs. Preble and Smith, on the movements of Eddy, and finding the sentiment of the people strongly against sending the expedition to Fort Cumberland, he wrote an earnest letter
to Col. Eddy, again urging him to desist, which letter he sent by a special messenger, Mr. Longfellow, who returned in two days saying Eddy was still determined to proceed. Mr. Allan spent the remainder of the month, Oct., 1776, in Machias and Goldsborough, and then sailing westward, arrived in Piscataqua river on the 3d of November. Thence by stage to Boston, where he arrived on the 7th. Here he saw many prominent men in relation to the business, including Messrs. Adams, Austin and the members of the council, but little promise of aid in furnishing the Indians with supplies could be given, owing to the great need and scarcity at home, and he therefore determined to visit Congress and lay the matter before them.

On the 29th of November, he started from Boston on horseback, for Philadelphia, passing through the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania. His journal of this trip is very interesting, and gives many incidents as they occurred. At Providence he called on Governor Cook, and at Norwich met Governor Trumbull of Connecticut, who gave him a pass through the country. He arrived at Hartford, Dec. 6th, and thence went to Fishkill, where he crossed the Hudson river, avoiding New York City, then in possession of the British. After a variety of adventures and hardships, owing to the roughness of the country, he fell in with Gen. Gates, whom he accompanied to the head-quarters of Gen. Washington, to whom he was presented and with whom he dined on Sunday, Dec. 22d. On the 25th, he left for Philadelphia, and the next day heard that Washington had crossed the Delaware with 2,500 men. The weather being bitter cold, he had a difficult journey to Baltimore, where he finally arrived on the 30th. He was received by congress on the 4th of January, and gave them a full statement of matters in the provinces. He was soon after appointed Superintendent of the Eastern Indians and Colonel of Infantry, and having received his instructions from Hon. John Hancock, he left Baltimore on the 17th, for Boston. He arrived at the latter place on the 3d of February, having received intelligence on the way, of Col. Eddy's disastrous repulse at Fort Cumberland.

The attack on Fort Cumberland caused great excitement in Nova Scotia, and the government was greatly exasperated. The following is extracted from the records:
"At a Council holden at Halifax, on the 17th Nov., 1776, Present, the Honorable the Lieut. Governor, the Hon. Charles Morris, Richard Bulkeley, Henry Morton, Jonathan Binney, Arthur Goold, John Butler.

"On certain intelligence having been received, that Jonathan Eddy, William Howe & Samuel Rogers have been to the utmost of their power exciting & stirring up dissatisfaction & rebellion among the people of the county of Cumberland, & are actually before the fort at Cumberland with a considerable number of rebels from New England, together with some Acadians & Indians. It was therefore resolved to offer £200, Reward for apprehending Jonathan Eddy & £100, for taking each of the others, so that they be brought to justice. Also £100, for apprehending of John Allan, who has been deeply concerned in exciting the said rebellion."

Beamish Murdoek, Esq., the historian of the province, in a letter to the compiler says: "If the traditions I have heard about John Allan are correct, he could not have been much over twenty-one years old in 1775. As he had no New England ancestors, his escapade must be attributed to ambition, romance or pure zeal for what he thought was just and right. For the feelings against the crown in Nova Scotia, in 1775, were confined to the Acadian French who resented their conquest, the Indians who were attached to them by habit and creed, and the settlers who were emigrants from New England."

The conduct of the soldiers at Cumberland after they had defeated Eddy was very savage; they burnt many of the houses of the persons who had fled to the States, and Col. Allan's was one of the first destroyed with nearly all its contents. His family fled without other clothing than they happened to have on at the moment, and hid themselves three days in the woods almost without food. Mrs. Allan crawled up to the smoking ruins of her late happy home, and found some potatoes which had been baked, or rather burnt by the fire. On these, she and her five little ones subsisted till she was found almost in a starving condition by her father, Mark Patton, who took her home and made her comfortable. His house was soon surrounded by British soldiers, who demanded the immediate surrender of the rebel's wife. Resistance was useless, and she was carried to Halifax a prisoner, though still very ill, leaving
her three little boys at their grandfather's. She was taken before the governor who commanded her to tell where her husband was, or be imprisoned. She remained firm, and gave them no information for some weeks. She then told her persecutors that "her husband had escaped to a free country."

Mrs. Allan remained in prison at Halifax, six or eight months, separated from husband and children. She was small in stature, delicate in constitution, and not well suited to this kind of treatment. She was often insulted, and suffered much from the insolence and brutality of her overseers. At the sacking of her house many valuable articles were burned and destroyed; others were carried off by the soldiery. Among the latter were several silk dresses, which were given to the soldiers' wives who by wearing them in her presence, strove to annoy and wound her feelings in every possible way.

After Col. Allan's return from his visit to Congress, and his interview with Washington, he remained in Boston about three months, urging upon the members of the counsell the necessity of protection to the eastern part of Maine, as well as the great advantage to the country of the taking possession of the western part of Nova Scotia, and advocating the sending of an armed force for that purpose, which they consented to do. But above all he represented the condition of the Indians there, and the absolute need of conciliating and assisting them by establishing truck-houses to furnish them with the articles they so much needed.

After his return from the expedition to the St. Johns of which his journal and letters give a full account, he assumed the duties of Superintendent of the Indian tribes. As they had assisted and shown much bravery in the defense of Machias, many of them were enlisted and did duty as soldiers for a month or two, till the danger of another attack had passed, when most of them were fitted out with supplies for a winter hunt upon the Schoodic lakes and in that vicinity, and returned in the spring to repay with their furs and skins the advances made to them. This was the course of matters for several years. Thus keeping them within his control, and where runners could in a few days reach them should he want their assistance; but in the spring and summer they came near the salt water where they could furnish themselves with fish, and for the last two years of the war, he seems to have kept them much of
the time on Passamaquoddy bay, where he says they could find food more plenty, and also hold that place as our outpost. He kept a truck-house or depot of supplies at Machias, which he received from the government at Boston, and the Indians always expected to be furnished at stated periods. He kept a regular set of books, and an account with the head of each Indian family. These are still extant in the archives of Massachusetts. But from the poverty of the country, and the great difficulty of bringing goods coastwise, the supply was generally scanty and often times were very long delayed. After the British captured and held the Penobscot and the country adjacent, it was almost impossible to reach Machias from Massachusetts.

This was the source of great anxiety and trouble, for when there was plenty, the Indians were quiet and easily controlled; but in times of scarcity, were impatient and often insolent and threatening to take vengeance on whoever came in their way, and as Col. Allan had to promise them that aid would soon arrive, and when they found it did not come, he alone had to bear the blame, and his life was often in danger. Hardly any situation could be more unpleasant than trying to appease a set of half starved Indians and keep them loyal to our side, while the British emissaries were sending messengers, and offering them everything they wished if they would come to them and join their cause. During this period Col. Allan was constantly pleading for the much needed supplies; his letters to the government are very numerous and earnest. In the absence of the Indians on their long winter hunts, they generally left their families near Machias, and they became hostages for their faithful return. In the fall of 1780, the British Indian agent, as will be seen in another part of this volume, made unusual efforts to induce them to leave our cause and join the enemy. For a long period no supplies had reached Machias and a famine almost prevailed. As a last resort, Col. Allan announced his intention of going to Boston to obtain the so much needed aid, but the Indians believed that he would never return, and they should be left to the tender mercies of their enemies, demanded some security for the fulfillment of his promises. It was finally arranged that he should leave his two oldest sons, William and Mark, in the hands of the Indians as hostages; and they remained with them one or
two years, living on fish, parched corn and seals' meat. William was thirteen years old and Mark eleven at this time. They suffered many hardships and were in a wretched condition when finally restored to their home—ragged, dirty and covered with vermin,—
as the Indians were then living nearly in a savage state.

It would be difficult to furnish a more trying case than this, or one
that showed a stronger devotion to the cause, and of fidelity to his
adopted country. The boys were great favorites with the Indians;
they learned their language and always had an attachment to them,
and in after life aided them in various ways. The writer has often
heard the old Indians speak of their living with the tribe, and
particularly about John, who always resided not far from their
homes.

He often spoke of the circumstance, and when he was more
than eighty years old communicated many facts in relation to it.
He died at Whiting, Washington county, Maine, in 1863. Among
the family papers is a letter to the boys from their father,
containing kind advice, such as only a good father would impart to
his children. The following is an extract:

It is dated Fort Gates, Machias, May 21, 1782. Col. Allan, after
some directions about supplies, gives them some advice as follows:

"Be very kind to the Indians & take particular notice of Nicholas,
Francis Joseph and Old Coucougas. I send you your books,
papers, pens & ink, wafers, & some other little things; shall send
more in two or three days. Let me entreat you my dear children
to be careful of your company & manners, be moral, sober and
discreet. * * * Duly observe your Duty to the
Almighty, morning & night. Mind strictly the Sabbath Day, not to
have either work or play except necessity compels you. I pray
God to bless you my dear boys."

The British were very bitter against Col. Allan, and for years a
price was set upon his head, and the soldiers sought every oppor-
tunity to take him dead or alive. They also incited the Indians
to take his life repeatedly, and tried to bribe them to do so. An
attack was made upon him at Machias, in a house now occupied by
Obadiah Hill. Col. Allan was sitting in a room with his sons,
William and John, when an Indian came in; he did not say much,
but they noticed him go behind the door. Being on intimate terms
with Col. Allan, little attention was paid to the circumstance. Soon a powerful Indian from the eastward, towards Halifax, strode into the room, and advancing directly to Col. Allan as he sat in his chair, brandished a huge knife over his head, and glared at him with ferocity. Col. Allan kept his seat, and looked him steadily in the eye. Just as the savage was about to strike, the friendly Indian sprang from behind the door, and felled the assassin to the floor in an instant. He was disarmed, and Col. Allan sent him off home in a birch canoe.

He was once traveling on skates among the Schoodic lakes when he was set upon by a party of Indians in the service of the British, also mounted on skates. They gave chase and closely pressed him for a mile or two, when coming to an open place or channel of water, he gave a tremendous jump and landed safely on the other side. The Indians appalled at his daring feat, stopped at the brink of the water, and none of them daring to follow, Col. Allan was soon safe and entirely beyond their reach.

His enemies attempted frequently to entrap him. At one time some friendly Indians heard of a plan the British had formed to take him when he was suffering with the gout. They wrapped him in blankets, carried him off to the woods and thus baffled the English. At another time the captain of an English merchant vessel sent a polite note to Col. Allan inviting him to dinner. Col. Allan was pleased with the courtesy, and was about to go, when Capt. Dyer, who feared treachery, begged Col. Allan to remain and let him go instead. Col. Allan refused, but finally yielded, and the captain went in his stead. He proceeded to the English ship, and was no sooner on deck than the perfidious captain cried in exultation, “Now, thank God, I've got you, you d——d rebel!”

“No, you haven't got him, said the brave Dyer, you've only got me.” Capt. Dyer was taken to Halifax where he died, some time afterwards a prisoner of war.

Col. Allan had a sixteen oar barge, on which was mounted a small swivel gun. On one occasion he was sailing on Passamaquoddy bay with his sons William, Mark and John, and seeing an English raft of lumber, bore down upon it and fired a shot. The men in charge,
about twenty in number, took fright and fled to their boats. Col. Allan broke up the raft and set the fragments adrift. No one was with him except his three sons. This was done almost under the guns of an English ship of war, from which three barges, well manned, were immediately sent in pursuit. An exciting chase ensued. Col. Allan's barge behaved nobly, and kept well ahead. Rapidly rounding a point of land he drew a plug from the bottom of the boat, which caused her to fill with water and she soon sank. Jumping into the water, Col. Allan with his boys swam to the shore, and secreted themselves in the woods. The English boats (iame sweeping round the point confident of catching him in the little bay, but to their consternation, nothing could be seen of either man or boat. They returned to their ship fully persuaded that Col. Allan was in league with the devil. The boat was soon after raised and did good service in many a subsequent cruise.—Relation of Mr. John Allan at the age of eighty-two.

At the close of the war Col. Allan returned to Boston, and resigned the position he had filled so long and with such fidelity, to the cause he had espoused, and honorably closed his accounts with government as the following certificate shows:

Boston, Sept. 24, 1783.

To the Honorable Senate and Hon. House of Representatives:

The Committee appointed by the Honorable Court by their resolve of 3d July, 1783, to settle the Accounts of Col. John Allan, Supt. of Indian affairs in the Eastern Department & Commander of the Post at Machias, have attended that Service. They have carefully collected and examined all the charges against him in Cash and Supplies received from the Late Board of War & the Commissary General, & they have also particularly examined all his accounts & returns for the expenditure of the same with his Vouchers to support said Charges, & we find he has been particularly attentive to the business committed to his charge. Very regular & correct in keeping his Books & Accounts, & after critically examining the same & every Voucher, We find his accounts right cast & well
vouched, and that on a final settlement which we have made with him, there remains a balance due to him of sixteen hundred & fourteen pounds, nineteen shillings, Specie, for which we have given him a Certificate.

All of which is submitted,

(Signed) Thomas Walley,

Peter Boyer,

John Deming,

Committee.

In 1784, he removed to Maine and the next year commenced a merantile business on Dudley, afterwards called "Allan's Island," near Lubec. In this he does not seem to have been successful, for his generosity of heart was such that it prevented him from taking proper measures to collect debts due him. The result was, that in two years he closed up the business and retired to Lubec Mills, at which place he resided until his death. The island, however, remained in possession of his family for several years.

In 1792, about 22,000 acres of wild land were granted to him and his associates by the government of Massachusetts, now the town of Whiting, but owing to its location and the soil being hard and barren, it did not prove of much value to him or his family.

In 1801, he made a representation to Congress of his great losses consequent on his joining the American cause. This amounted to more than ten thousand dollars. An appraisement was made and testified to by most of the prominent men in Cumberland county, many of whom had been his old neighbors. After much effort, he received a grant of about two thousand acres of land in Ohio, upon a part of which the city of Columbus now stands. This locality was then apparently more distant than Oregon is now, and but little could be realized from it, and it proved of but small advantage to him or his family. He took considerable interest in the incorporation of Eastport, and in surveying and locating the settlers on their lots.

Like a large part of the officers of the revolution, he felt the difficulties and trials incident to poverty. The country and people were passing through a state of depression and exhaustion of which...
we can hardly conceive, and he never lived to see the prosperity which finally resulted from the privations and toils of the patriots who achieved our liberties.

It is evident from his letters that he took a great interest in the adoption of the constitution, and the settlement of our national government; he was also interested in the adjustment of our boundary as fixed by the treaty with England, always contending that the Magaguadavic was the true St. Croix, and was much dissatisfied by the strange decision of the commissioners which gave the island of Grand Manan to the British.

But the exposures and privations of Col. Allan seem to have undermined his constitution, and from a private journal which he kept, he was in the autumn of 1804 suffering severely from asthma. It is painful to follow his entries as he almost daily records his sleepless and suffering nights, as well as the dark and dreary days of winter and the gloom that was around him. The last entry is Sunday, Dec. 9th. It was evident he was fully aware of his critical situation, and that his end was near. He appears to have borne his trials with fortitude, but continued gradually to decline till the evening of February 7th, 1805, when he expired at the age of fifty-nine years.

He was buried on the island where he had previously lived, and which now bears his name.

Here in August, 1860, his descendants from many distant homes assembled to dedicate an elegant monument they had caused to be erected to his memory. During that pleasant day the eldest related to the young the story of the life, sufferings and services of their ancestor, which can now never be forgotten. Two years later when the country he had served so faithfully was in the midst of a terrible struggle for the preservation of those principles, and to protect the same territory he had so successfully defended eighty years before, a battery was erected on this island, and near his grave. It was indeed fitting that his last resting place should be surrounded by the emblems of national defense, and that the flag of his adopted country should wave over his tomb.

In considering the character of Col. Allan, I do not intend to claim that he was better than many of his associates, or free from imperfections, but to testify so far as I have found verified by un-
questioned documents, to his ardent love and fidelity to the cause he adopted, a cause he could not have joined in its darkest days, and at great pecuniary sacrifice, from any other motives than a love of liberty and the rights of man.

Of the value of his services and their results, it would seem all who carefully peruse this volume must conclude that they were very great. For, looking at the condition of the territory east of the Penobscot, and the sparse and feeble settlements along its seaboard, we can see that had the four tribes of Indians done what the British government earnestly wished, and would have aided them to do, they could have united and destroyed, or driven away every inhabitant east of the Penobscot. This Col. Allan foresaw, and to prevent it, made a long journey to report these facts to Congress, and Gen. Washington. They saw the danger, and that Col. Allan was the man to wield the necessary influence with the Indians, and so control them, as to make them our friends, and often to aid in defending our people. Without this aid it is most likely that Machias, our eastern outpost, must have been abandoned.

Had this place been given up, it would have been an abandonment of the whole territory, and must have disastrously affected the settlement of our eastern boundary. This Col. Allan seems to have anticipated, as his papers show. It is now generally conceded that our present boundary was fixed mainly on the ground of occupation, and had we not been able to hold it, we cannot say what river in Maine would now divide us from a British province.

Judge Jones, who resided a long period at Machias, and who well knew the history of Eastern Maine, stated in 1820, "That it was an immense advantage to the inhabitants eastward of the Penobscot that the great majority of the Passamaquoddy &c. joined with us instead of adhering to the enemy, for they have been against us, and been set on by the British to plunder our towns and settlements, the whole population must have been destroyed. Great credit is due the Indians for their rigid adherence to our cause, although at times the commissary's department was destitute of provisions and clothing for them."—Williamson's History of Maine.

Is it then saying too much for Col. Allan, to assert that mainly to his efforts was this result due, and should we not at this late day remember his services and the amount of time and trouble he contrived to raise?
render this long deferred tribute to his memory, and rank him among the revolutionary worthies who deserve the gratitude of our country?

According to the testimony of those who remember him, Col. Allan was a man who won the respect of almost all about him. He was ardent, but energetic; rigid and exacting as an officer, but humane to all who had done wrong. He was hospitable and generous, and although very exact in all business matters, particularly when entrusted with the property of others, he was too lenient with his debtors to succeed in business affairs. Though not connected or sympathizing with any particular church, he had strong religious feeling as many of his letters and other writings show, and rather looked to the practically carrying out the principles of the Sermon on the Mount, than to have rested his faith on any sectarian theory.

In personal appearance he was rather tall and straight, inlining in his last years to be corpulent, with dark brown hair and blue eyes; in conversation animated and generally interesting.

In taking leave of this subject the writer would say, that he has been induced to pay this poor tribute to his memory only from a feeling that the value of his services had been overlooked, and it was the duty of some one to make an enduring record of what he had done for posterity. The lesson of his life has not been lost upon his descendants, over thirty of whom responded to the call of their country in the late war for the Union; and in their various positions have done what they could to perpetuate the blessings of liberty. The gratitude of a nation is due, not only to those who founded it, but also to those who have aided in its preservation.
Copy of an Original Record of the Family of William Allan, born in Scotland about 1720, came to Halifax, N. S. in 1749. Died about 1790.


1746. Jan. 3d. John Allan born about half after one o’clock Friday afternoon in Edinburgh Castle; Baptas’d by Mr. Glasgow the 5th.

1747. Aug 16. Mary Allan born about 11 at night, Sunday, in Perth and Died the 22d, Same month.

1750. Dec. 25th. Elizabeth Allan born about 3 o’clock in Halifax; Baptized by Mr. Tully, in the church of England; Mr. Forbes Baker, Mr. Sennacherib Martyn & Mrs. Coupland, Godfathers & Godmother. Marry’d Thursday, August 27th, 1772, to John George Pyke.

1752. Octob 27. William Allan Born about 4 in the morning, at Chignecto, Fort Lawrence, Friday; Capt. John Hale, Lieut. Rob’t Pat’tshell & Mrs. Bishop, Godfathers & Godmother. Baptized by Mr. Wood.

1754. Sept. 30. George Allan Born about 4 o’clock Monday Morning, Chignecto, Fort Lawrence; Mr. Sennacherib Martyn, Godfather, Baptized by Mr. Wood. Dyed the 19th May, 1804, a little before five O’clock on Saturday Afternoon.

1756. Aug. 25th. James Allan Born Tuesday, about Fort Cumberland; Baptized by Mr. W. Wood; Died November 1st, 1757.

1759. April, 10th. Jean Allan, Born Tuesday half after 10 at night, Fort Cumberland; Baptized by the reverd Mr. Thomas
Genealogy of the Allan Family.

Wilkinson. 1775. February 7th, Tuesday, marry'd to Thomas Cochran by the reverend Doct' Breynton.

1760. Nov. 21st. Winckworth Allan Born; Cristned by Joshua Tiffs.


1767. Isabel Allan (wife of William Allan Senior), Departed this life about the Turn of the Night between the 30th & 31st of August, 5 minutes before 12 O'clock.

Note. It will be seen by the above record, that seven of the nine children of William Allan, were born in America. Two of them, Mary and James, died in infancy, and as near as I can ascertain, George and Winckworth were never married. The latter went to England and became a wealthy merchant in London where he died. The three daughters, Elizabeth, Jean and Isabella, became connected by marriage with the Pyke, Cochran and Hill families of Halifax. Their descendants are numerous, influential and wealthy. Many of them have occupied prominent positions in provincial society; several of them have occupied high rank in the British army, and have been knighted by the queen for bravery in India and the Crimea. William Allan, Jr., removed from Halifax to Fort Cumberland, and in 1787, married Sarah Dixson. He died Oct. 4, 1806, leaving a widow and four sons. Of these, two are still living, Thomas Cochran Allan, born 1790, cashier of the Miramichi Bank, still an active and energetic business man at the age of 77; and his brother, William Maxwell Allan, a prominent merchant of Halifax. The latter has 3 sons and 2 daughters. A list of the descendants of John Allan, the eldest son, is appended. Col. John Allan was the eldest son of William Allan, one of the original settlers of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was born in Edinburgh Castle, Scotland, Jan. 3d, 1746, Old Style. He came to Halifax, N. S., with his parents in 1749, and Oct. 10th, 1767, married Mary Patton b. Feb. 3, 1746; d. June 8, 1819. He was a representative in the provincial parliament of Nova Scotia from 1770 to 1776, when he was obliged to flee for refuge to the United States, his ideas of freedom having made him obnoxious to the British government, who offered rewards for his apprehension. He came to the States in the autumn of 1776. Proceeding to Philadelphia, he had several interviews with General Washington and also waited upon
Genealogy of the Allan Family.

William Allan, who came to America from Scotland, in 1700, married, and resided in Philadelphia, where he died May 29, 1707. He was a merchant, and left five children.

1. Thomas, b. 1708; d. 1811, married, and had 11 children.

... (Continue with details about the family members and their descendants)...

Genealogy of the Allan Family.

William Allan (2), b. 1768; d. 1814, had 11 children, viz:

11. Alice Allan (1), b. Apr. 8, 1790; m. Jonathan Greaves. He died. She is still living (Feb. 67). Had 9 children, as follows: Elizabeth, William, Mary, Alice, John, George (1st Mass. Vols.), Jonathan, Harriett, and Jane. Most of them died young. Elizabeth m. Mr. Woodell, had 1 child; George, m. Edna Campbell and has 1 son.


Mark Allan (3), 1770-1818, had 13 children, viz:


23. Anna Allan (2), b. Feb., 1794; died in infancy.

24. Mary Patton Allan (3), b. Apr., 1795; m. Andrew Sprague. Had 11 children, Andrew, Mary A., Benjamin, Susan, Samuel, Elijah, Martha, Sarah, and Caroline, most of whom are married and have families of children.

25. Lydia C. Allan (4), b. Aug. 9, 1797; m. True Bradbury. Had 5 children Wyer, Samuel, Stephen, Sarah and Mary, all of whom are married and have families. Several members of this family enlisted in the army and navy during the late war.


28. John Allan (7), b. Sept. 3, 1802; m. (1), Lydia Kilby, (2), Emma Wiswell. Had 2 sons, John b. 1840; and William b. 1846; d. 1846.


30. Sally Allan (9), b. July, 1806. Resides in Dennysville, Me.

32. Patton Allan (11), b. 1810; d. 1812.
34. Ebenezer W. (13), b. 1818; d. 1825.
38. Elizabeth Allan (4), b. Sept. 14, 1803; m. 1827, Major Joseph Allan. Had 6 children, Louisa, 1 William, 2 Elbridge, 3 Isabel, 4 Albion, 5 and George, 6 6th Maine Vols. Four of these are married and have families.
41. Mehitabel Crane Allan (7), b. Aug. 29, 1809; m. Wm. Goodwin. She died 1850 in Northern Michigan. Had 3 children, Alissa, 1 Laura 2 and Frank, 3

43. Isabella Allan (9), b. March 25, 1814; m. Hiram Huckins. She d. 1848. Had 6 children, John, Valeria, Alice, James, Henry and Emerson. Two of these are married.


46. Alice Allan (12), b. May 20, 1821; d. next day.


49. John George Allan (2), born Apr. 5, 1805; d. April, 1824.


Horatio Gates Allan (7), b. 1779; d. 1837. Had 5 children.

52. Winckworth Sargent Allan (2), b. March 11, 1812; m. (1) to Hannah Libby, and had b- her, 2 children. Prentiss, (12th Regt. Me.,) b. 1841, and Emma b. 1842; m. (2) to Catharine B. Libby, and had by her three children. Edgar b. 1848. Catharine b. 1855, and an infant daughter; d. 1847; m. (3) to Susan Knox. Had by her 1 child, Lena b. 1861.


55. Mary Isabel Allan b. Nov. 15, 1821; died unmarried Sept. 23, 1841.
J. Libby, B. Libby, m. (1) to 12th Regt.

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