

# Allen Family

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama
<b>Creator:</b>	Allen, John Grey, 1810-1891
<b>Creator:</b>	Allen family
<b>Creator:</b>	Allen, Charles Edward, 1860-1943
<b>Title:</b>	Allen Family papers
<b>ID:</b>	MSS.0064
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1848-1906
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.9 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The business and personal papers of John G. Allen (1810- 1891) and his son Charles Edward (1860-1943), planters of Marengo County, Alabama, including Civil War letters, tenant farmer contracts, mortgages and indentures, bills and receipts, personal letters, insurance policies, and miscellaneous items relating to the family.

### Preferred Citation

Allen family papers, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.

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## Biographical / Historical

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In 1841, the Allen family moved to Old Spring Hill, Marengo County, Alabama, from Wadesboro, Anson County, North Carolina. The founder of the family in Alabama was John Gray Allen who was born June 10, 1810, in North Carolina and died September 7, 1891, in Alabama. He was the son of Richard Allen, Jr., and Mary Gray, the daughter of John Gray. The other children of Richard and Mary Gray were George W. Allen, Richard Proctor Allen, Thetis Allen, and Sarah Allen.

John Gray Allen married three times. His first wife Anne Allen (unrelated) died in 1835 before he came to Alabama. By this marriage he had three children: William Caldwell Allen, Mary Jane Allen (1838-1909), and Richard Proctor Allen (1841-1909).

On August 4, 1842, John Gray Allen married Nancy Roe Kennon Curtis (March 9, 1816-October 5, 1849), the widow of Hiram Boatright and the daughter of Samuel Curtis. Four children were born of this marriage: Elizabeth Gray Allen, John Curtis Allen (1848-1914), Leroy Jones Allen (1847-?), and Thomas Roe Allen (1848-1865).

Ann Curtis (June 13, 1817-November 17, 1897), whom John Gray Allen married in 1858, was the daughter of William Curtis, the granddaughter of Samuel Curtis, and the niece of Nancy Roe Kennon Curtis--the second wife of John Gray Allen. They had one son, Charles Edward Allen (August 30, 1860-May 23, 1943).

In 1857, John Gray Allen built a handsome two-story house in Old Spring Hill, which is still occupied by his descendants (1978). He was an extensive cotton planter as well as a merchant, and he frequently financed other planters by accepting mortgages on their property and crops.

John Gray Allen was a trustee of the Old Spring Hill Academy and served as a Justice of the Peace in 1850. Although he was too old to fight in the Civil War, he furnished supplies and materials in support of the Southern cause. Due to his activities during the Civil War, he was stripped of his citizenship following the conflict, but had it restored by Andrew Johnson's 1868 Presidential Pardon.

William Caldwell Allen, the oldest son of John Gray Allen by his first marriage, was born August 28, 1836, in North Carolina and died April 22, 1881, in Alabama. He married Julia Anne Finch (October 15, 1845-December 13, 1909) on April 11, 1866, and had one son Weldon Gray Allen.

At the beginning of the Civil War, William Caldwell Allen joined the Jefferson Davis Company of Cavalry which was engaged in many conflicts in Virginia and Tennessee. Although seriously wounded during the war, he recovered and returned to Marengo County where he farmed and led an active part in county affairs.

Charles Edward Allen, the only child of John Gray Allen by this third wife Anne Curtis, was born August 30, 1860, and died May 23, 1943. He attended the Spring Hill Academy and remained a life-long resident of Old Spring Hill where he was a successful farmer. He was active in county affairs and was a member of the Marengo County Board of Education. He was also a member of the Knights of Pythias. The Allen papers show that John Gray Allen was a successful cotton planter with extensive holdings, who financed other planters by accepting mortgages on their lands and crops. Charles Allen seems to have taken over his father's business of financing during the 1880s and ran it until at least 1900.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Allen family papers span the period 1848-1906. They fall into two major divisions: those relating to the affairs of John Gray Allen (1810-1891) and those relating to the affairs of Charles Edward Allen (1860-1943). The papers are in both instance fairly well distributed between business and personal matters. The collection contains a variety of materials, including Civil War letters, tenant farmer contracts, mortgages and indentures, bills and receipts, personal letters, insurance policies, and miscellaneous items relating to the family. All the papers are originals.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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Box 870266

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[archives@ua.edu](mailto:archives@ua.edu)

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### Provenance

Gift of Elizabeth Allen, 1978

### Processed by

S. Braden, 2008; updated by Martha Bace, 2012

### Conditions Governing Access

None

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Bonds
- Community organization -- United States
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives, Confederate
- Confederate States of America -- History
- Tax records
- Estate administration records
- Cartography and Maps
- Cotton
- Alabama -- Industries
- Banks and banking
- Records and correspondence
- Receipts (financial records)
- Business records
- Daily Life and Family
- Business and Labor
- Alabama
- Family papers
- Marengo County (Ala.)
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- Alabama -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
- Farmers -- Correspondence
- Real property
- Insurance policies
- Letters (correspondence)
- Allen, John Grey, 1810-1891
- Allen family
- Allen, Charles Edward, 1860-1943

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## Collection Inventory

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### **John Gray Allen, 1810 June 10 - 1891 September 7**

Date [inclusive]: 1810 June 10 - 1891 September 7

#### **Business**

##### **Scope and Contents**

Correspondence and documents concerning various business aspects, including: agreements with tenant farmers establishing responsibilities of each; letters concerning the market value of cotton and subsequent sales; letters concerning household and farm supplies; papers relating to Tuller serving as a collection agent for John G. Allen;

loans secured by mortgages on crops, farms, houses, livestock, and slaves; Federal, state, and county taxes levied on real estate and personal property; promissory notes, court judgements, land title opinions, summons for jury duty, estate administration and settlement papers; letters from attorneys relating to various legal matters; fire insurance policies on buildings, home, and cotton, as well as life insurance policies; reports from overseer, letters concerning the purchase of lumber and fence posts, letters concerning farm machinery, black - smith tools, well repair, purchase of sheep, cattle, and grain; letters from several commission merchants in Mobile, Selma, and Demopolis; letters requesting loans, extension of notes, and letters relating to debts; letters from Askew Brothers concerning notes held by John G. Allen; and purchase of railroad bonds, leasing of farm property, Southern Express Money order, offers to purchase property, printed prospectus for bank stock. Arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances	
Tenant Farmer Contracts, 1873-1874 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1873-1874 <u>Physical Description:</u> 4 items. <u>Controlled Access Headings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allen, John Grey, 1810-1891</li> </ul>	box 249	folder 1
Commission Merchants Correspondence, Edward Kenworthy Carlisle; Carlisle & Smith Co. of Mobile Alabama, 1852-1860 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1852-1860 <u>Physical Description:</u> 15 items. <u>Controlled Access Headings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carlisle, Edward Kenworthy</li> </ul>	box 249	folder 2
Commission Merchants Correspondence, Rodgers and Pope of Mobile, Alabama, 1856-1860 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1856-1860 <u>Physical Description:</u> 8 items.	box 249	folder 3
Commission Merchants Correspondence, Rush Tuller of Mobile, Alabama, 1860-1872 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1860-1872 <u>Physical Description:</u> 33 items.	box 249	folder 4
Commission Merchants Correspondence, Charles Hopkins and Co. of Mobile, Alabama , 1873-1874 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1873-1874 <u>Physical Description:</u> 16 items.	box 249	folder 5
Mortgages, Indentures, Crop Liens, 1848-1877 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1848-1877 <u>Physical Description:</u> 23 items.	box 249	folder 6-A
Mortgages, Indentures, Crop Liens, 1879-1886 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1879-1886 <u>Physical Description:</u> 19 items.	box 249	folder 6-B
Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes, 1866 - 1877, 1886	box 249	folder 7

Date [inclusive]: 1866 - 1877, 1886

Physical Description: 22 items.

Legal Papers, 1847-1894	box 249	folder 8
<u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1847-1894		
<u>Physical Description</u> : 28 items.		
Incoming Legal Correspondence, 1877-1885	box 249	folder 9
<u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1877-1885		
<u>Physical Description</u> : 10 items.		
Insurance Policies, 1865-1888	box 249	folder 10
<u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1865-1888		
<u>Physical Description</u> : 23 items.		
Farm Operations , 1861-1885	box 250	folder 11
<u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1861-1885		
<u>Physical Description</u> : 33 items.		
Cotton Sales, 1854-1877	box 250	folder 12
<u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1854-1877		
<u>Physical Description</u> : 16 items.		
Creditor Papers, 1859-1889	box 250	folder 13
<u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1859-1889		
<u>Physical Description</u> : 32 items.		
Askew Brothers, 1877-1887	box 250	folder 14
<u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1877-1887		
<u>Physical Description</u> : 12 items.		
Miscellaneous Papers, 1871-1885	box 250	folder 15
<u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1871-1885		
<u>Physical Description</u> : 10 items.		

## Personal

### Scope and Contents

Personal correspondence and other documents, including: letters to John G. Allen from his son, William Caldwell Allen, a Confederate Cavalry soldier; Confederate States bond receipts and impressment receipts; U. S. Oaths of Allegiance, application for removal of disabilities, U. S. Presidential Pardon, receipt for preparation of pardon application; letters from various family members; letters concerning the administration of the academy at Old Spring Hill, letters concerning employment of overseers; note concerning the Old Spring Hill Grange; letters offering to purchase land from John G. Allen; letters concerning line disputes; and letters from various acquaintances. Arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances
Civil War Letters, 1862-1863	



<u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1862-1863 <u>Physical Description</u> : 6 items.	box 250	folder 16
Confederate States of American Item, 1863-1865 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1863-1865	box 250	folder 17
Post-Civil War Items, 1865, 1866, 1868 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1865, 1866, 1868 <u>Physical Description</u> : 10 items.	box 250	folder 18
Family Letters, 1859-1888 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1859-1888 <u>Physical Description</u> : 23 items.	box 250	folder 19
Miscellaneous Letters, 1852-1886 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1852-1886 <u>Physical Description</u> : 25 items.	box 250	folder 20

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## Charles Edward Allen, 1860 August 30 - 1943 May 23

Date [inclusive]: 1860 August 30 - 1943 May 23

### Business

#### Scope and Contents

Correspondence and documents concerning various business aspects, including: contracts between State of Alabama and Charles E. Allen for the purpose of hiring convicts as farm laborers; legal contracts between Charles E. Allen and tenant farmers; mortgages on Farms to enable farmers to plant crops; and Cancelled checks and bank statements from First National Bank of Demopolis, Alabama, and accounts of cotton sales handles by First National Bank for Charles E. Allen (these items are unarranged). Unless otherwise indicated, these items are arranged chronologically.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Convict Labor Contracts, 1885-1903 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1885-1903 <u>Physical Description</u> : 23 items.	box 251	folder 21
Tenant Farmer Contracts, 1895-1902 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1895-1902 <u>Physical Description</u> : 7 items.	box 251	folder 22
Mortgages, Indentures, Crop Liens, 1889-1901 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1889-1901	box 251	folder 23

Physical Description: 12 items.

Financial Papers

box 251

folder 24

## Personal

### Scope and Contents

Personal correspondence and other documents, including: school performance evaluations, letters to Charles E. Allen, property tax forms, Knights of Pythias (notices of meetings, dues, and receipts of dues), appointment as trustee to Marengo Board of Education. Arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances	
Miscellaneous Papers, 1870-1905 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1870-1905 <u>Physical Description</u> : 35 items.	box 251	folder 25

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## Envelopes, 1848-1905

Date [inclusive]: 1848-1905

Physical Description: 297 items

### Scope and Contents

Envelopes removed from correspondence in Allen Family Papers. Some still retain stamps. Several are highly decorated with advertisements. Items are unarranged.

Title/Description	Instances	
Envelopes	box 251	folder 26/A
Envelopes	box 251	folder 26/B

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## Miscellaneous Papers, 1854, 1862-1865, 1866, 1876

Date [inclusive]: 1854, 1862-1865, 1866, 1876

Physical Description: 9 items.

### Scope and Contents

Undated land maps, soap receipts, tax forms, and letters unrelated to the Allen Family. Chronologically arranged.

box 251

folder 27

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## Bills and Receipts, 1848-1906

Date [inclusive]: 1848-1906

### Scope and Contents

Chronologically arranged by folder, unarranged within folder.

Title/Description	Instances	
Bills and Receipts , 1848-1859 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1848-1859 <u>Physical Description</u> : 17 items.	box 253	folder 28.1
Bills and Receipts, 1860-1867 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1860-1867 <u>Physical Description</u> : 102 items.	box 253	folder 28.2
Bills and Receipts , 1868-1869 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1868-1869 <u>Physical Description</u> : 41 items.	box 253	folder 28.3
Bills and Receipts , 1870-1872 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1870-1872 <u>Physical Description</u> : 93 items.	box 253	folder 28.4
Bills and Receipts , 1873-1874 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1873-1874 <u>Physical Description</u> : 133 items.	box 253	folder 28.5
Bills and Receipts, 1875-1877 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1875-1877 <u>Physical Description</u> : 95 items.	box 253	folder 28.6
Bills and Receipts , 1878-1879 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1878-1879 <u>Physical Description</u> : 78 items.	box 253	folder 28.7
Bills and Receipts, 1880-1882 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1880-1882 <u>Physical Description</u> : 86 items.	box 253	folder 28.8
Bills and Receipts, 1883-1885 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1883-1885 <u>Physical Description</u> : 59 items.	box 253	folder 28.9
Bills and Receipts , 1886-1889 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1886-1889	box 253	folder 28.1

<u>Physical Description</u> : 100 items		
Bills and Receipts, 1890-1894 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1890-1894 <u>Physical Description</u> : 53 items.	box 253	folder 28.11
Bills and Receipts, 1895 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1895 <u>Physical Description</u> : 127 items	box 253	folder 28.12
Bills and Receipts , 1896 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1896 <u>Physical Description</u> : 78 items	box 252	folder 28.13
Bills and Receipts, 1897-1898 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1897-1898 <u>Physical Description</u> : 84 items.	box 252	folder 28.14
Bills and Receipts , 1899 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1899 <u>Physical Description</u> : 48 items	box 252	folder 28.15
Bills and Receipts, 1900-1901 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1900-1901 <u>Physical Description</u> : 101 items.	box 252	folder 28.16
Bills and Receipts, 1902 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1902 <u>Physical Description</u> : 61 items.	box 252	folder 28.17
Bills and Receipts, 1903 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1903 <u>Physical Description</u> : 78 items.	box 252	folder 28.18
<b>Bills and Receipts, 1904</b> <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1904 <u>Physical Description</u> : 43 items.	box 252	folder 28.19
<a href="#">^ Return to Table of Contents</a>		
Bills and Receipts, 1905-1906 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1905-1906	box 252	folder 28.2

Physical Description: 93 items.

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**Prout and Robertson Bankers, 1885-1906**

box 252

folder 29

Date [inclusive]: 1885-1906

Physical Description: 267 items.

**Scope and Contents**

Cancelled checks, bank statements, and bank books.  
Unarranged.

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Newspapers

box 64.002

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Newspapers

box 64.003