



**(L) Henry James Allen and brother  
(R) Aser Columbus Allen**



**Emma Hodge Allen  
and Aser C. Allen**

The following family biography is contributed by PFA Member Delores Allen. Her husband Bill descends from John Pipkin [d. 1745] as follows: John, Phillip, Enos and Aser Columbus Pipkin, Martha Jane Pipkin Allen, Aser Columbus Allen, Lucien Henry Allen, Jessie Clinton Allen, Bill L. Allen

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In the early 1970's, Bill and I started working on our Allen Family with little information past his grandparents, who had passed away. We had found the Allen name with Pipkins in the 1860 census. And while in our local library, in the "genealogy helper", we saw a notice about the Pipkin Association. I wrote and immediately got a letter from the then Phyllis Ferrara, who was a direct relative. She stated that the Pipkin Association had long wondered about the two Allens in the Aser Pipkin household. It was exciting at the time, and opened up much new information for our family. So, I thought it might be nice to write about the Allen boys, who they were, and what they did with their lives. I must say, we have never been able to take the Allen name back further than the 1850's. We seem to hit a blank wall. Aser Pipkin referred to him once as "Mr. Allen", and I do not know if there were any members of the Aser Pipkin Family that might have left any written information about Martha Jane Pipkin and her husband Richard Allen. I had hoped that a Family Bible might show up some day with information. I, several years ago, ordered a book called, The Honeymoon Trail, by Richard Ira Elkins, which was a book about the life of Maria Lafintie Pipkin, daughter of Nancy Julie Pipkin. Julie was

our Martha Jane Pipkin's sister. In the book, on page 75, Julia had a baby late in life and I will quote:

Mama declared one day that the baby's name was to be Martha Hatch. "Fine, but where did you get that name?" Asked Father Ira. "We don't have anyone named Martha in our family that I know of. Do you have any relatives named Martha?" "No," Mama said. "I just thought it fit her".

The truth was, that she named the baby for her sister Martha. Since our Martha had died prior to 1850, some of the Pipkins seemed not to know of her existence.

There was also another sister, Sally Salina Pipkin Lenderman, whom the Pipkin Family did not know about. When we were doing research on the will of Richard Foster (father of Margaret Singleton Foster Pipkin) we found Sally Salina Pipkin Lenderman name included in her grandfather's will as her mother had already died. Margaret's portion of the will was divided between her children and grandchildren. They came with the Aser Pipkin Family to Arkansas, and settled in the area. I have corresponded with a descendant of hers and have a copy of a letter that Jacob Lenderman wrote to his wife and family while serving in the Civil War. (I believe that I sent you a copy).

Martha Jane Pipkin married Richard L. Allen, January 4, 1851 in Marshall County, Mississippi, and the two joined the Aser Columbus Pipkin Family on their move from Marshall County, Mississippi to, some say, White County Arkansas, and then on to Prairie County, Arkansas. Martha Jane Pipkin Allen died May 24, 1857, ten days after her mother Margaret Singleton Foster Pipkin. They probably died from a flu epidemic. I corresponded with a historian of the Hickory Plains area and she had a written record of Martha Allen and Margaret Pipkin burial, in an old cemetery that has been almost completely destroyed. Some of the names from the tombstones had been copied. A great aunt, and grand daughter of Aser Pipkin( LaFintie Allen James), stated that Richard Allen had went out one night to fetch a bucket of water, disappeared and it was assumed that he was killed by the "bushwhackers". This was prior to 1860. She had been told this by Aser Allen her father. She said that Richard had come from Virginia. This left the two Allen boys age 4 and 6 by the 1860, census in the Pipkin Household, under the care of Aser Columbus Pipkin and his second wife Martha Yarber, whom Aser Allen dearly loved according to his daughter, Aunt Fentie.

### **So this is the story of Aser Columbus Allen**

Aser Columbus Allen was born October 26, 1854, at Pigeon Roost, Prairie County, Arkansas, and named for his grandfather Aser Columbus Pipkin. His mother was Martha Jane Pipkin and his father was Richard L. Allen. By the time he was 4 years old and his brother James Henry (possibly named for his paternal grandfather) was 6; the brothers had become orphans due to the death of their parents and their grandmother Margaret Singleton Foster Pipkin. Grandpa Pipkin re-married and raised the two small boys with the rest of his family.

One day in 1861, Grandpa Pipkin rode off to fight in the Civil War. It was Aser or Asa as he was sometimes known, chore to feed the geese and herd the sheep. He liked his grandmother very much. One day he asked grandma to fix him a chicken, but grandma thought they were too pretty to kill and dress. Aser had a mare to stomp on its head to kill it so that grandma would have to fix it.(told by his daughter Fennie)

In the late 1860's Aser and James Henry Allen inherited their mother's portion of the estate of Richard Foster, of Maury County, Tennessee. Aser C. Pipkin, was their legal guardian and collected the money for them.

At the age of 17, on December 19, 1871, Aser, married Emma J. Hodge 15, at the residence of her mother Mary A. Hodge, Hickory Plains, Arkansas. He was married by his grandfather Aser Pipkin, who was a Justice of Peace. The month before on November 9, 1871, James Henry Allen, had married Ella, Emma's sister. Around the year of 1877, Aser and Emma with their two sons Ed and David R., left Arkansas along with Henry and his wife Ella and their son Sam to settle in Ellis County, Texas. This part of Texas had just been officially opened for white settlement as the Indians were pushed on up into Oklahoma Indian Territory. The Allen brothers along with others (Hammon and Butler Families were known to have traveled with them) were three months on the road with their teams of oxen and herds of cattle. It is told that they took some of the first barbed wire into Ellis County and bought a ranch around Milford, Texas. Shortly after reaching Texas, Ella died and James Henry's son Sam, age 7, went to live with his aunt and uncle, Aser and Emma and their children.

In the late 1800's, a long drought forced Aser to sell out and he moved to Tecumseh, Oklahoma. Aunt Fennie stated that one of her first memories was making the move to Oklahoma Territory. They had to ford both the North and South Canadian Rivers. They would unhitch the horses and use all of them to take one wagon at a time across the river. Aser's brother Henry stayed in Texas and she remembered returning to Texas at the age of 13 for a visit. Aser worked making and hauling bricks for the streets of Tecumseh.

Later western Oklahoma, was opened up for settlement and he homesteaded in 1901, 160 acres around Cheyenne, Roger Mills County, Oklahoma. Aunt Fennie remembered that the family walked from the capitol in Guthrie all the way to Roger Mills County, with their wagon. Lucy Mae, her little sister, took sick on the road and died nine days after arriving in Cheyenne. They first pitched a tent and then built a big dugout to live in. Emma, her mother died in 1903, and the family took Emma, by train back to Shawnee for burial at the New Hope Cemetery west of Tecumseh. All of the family was there except her brother David. They held the funeral up til 4 o'clock, but he did not make it until 8. Aunt Fennie remembered him gathering her up on his lap and crying for a long time. The next morning she pulled her first tooth. She said the boys were good to help the girls. Friends also helped take care of the girls and in planting crops. Aser later built a house on a creek, planted an orchard and lived in the Cheyenne area for a number of years. He raised cotton and corn. Some people knew him by the nickname "Coon". It was said that he ate so much corn one time, that it made him sick, and he was nicknamed for the racoon, who loves to eat corn. He also ran a restaurant and livery stable at one time. He

was not an educated man, but was said to be a gentleman and very witty. He remarried at the age of 61, a widow by the name of Nancy Ann Sizeman and lived another 20 years. He passed from this life September 13, 1931, at Foss, Oklahoma. His body was taken by train to Tecumseh and he was buried beside Emma at New Hope Cemetery.

Children of Aser and Emma Allen were:

1. William Lee Edward. Allen, who was a jeweler in Shawnee and Tecumseh, Oklahoma for many years.
2. David Rudolph Allen, who was a rancher in Taylor County, Texas.
3. Jesse Columbus Allen, who was a barber and worked in the oilfields of Oklahoma.
4. Henry Lucien Allen, who farmed and homesteaded a 160 acres in Roger Mills, Oklahoma near his father. He later became an engineer for the Sante Fe Railroad of which he retired from. (this is our ancestor...Bill Allen)
5. Ephern Selma Allen, who for awhile was a brakeman with the Sante Fe Railroad and later settled in Casa Grande, Arizona, where he bought land and raised bees producing honey. He produced so much that during World War II he sold honey to the U. S. Govt.
6. Hattie Florence, married Thomas Martin Watson and after his death a Mr. James Tinney.
7. Cora LaFiente, was the great aunt who gave us much of the Allen history and started us on our research. She was named after her father's cousins. She was a redheaded, freckled faced little girl and loved school. At 13 she was asked to teach a fourth grade class. She loved to dance and took singing lessons. She was an ordained minister, composed poetry, wrote articles for the Los Animas Newspaper, she also told of being a mail carrier and mid wife traveling miles to deliver babies. She married N. R. James and they lived on 320 acres they homesteaded in Los Animas, Colorado. She died October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1990 at the age of 93.
8. Lucy Mae, who died as a child

Aunt Fennie remembered the Pipkin Family sending Aser Columbus Allen, her father, a tintype picture of Aser Columbus Pipkin and a gold piece upon his death.

Additional information from contributor: Aser Pipkin was first lieutenant of the Prairie Invincibles, a militia company (volunteers) organized at Hickory Plain, Prairie County, on July 15, 1861.

“Prairie Invincibles.” This cavalry company organized at Hickory Plain on Monday last. The following officers were elected: V.B. Dalrymple, captain; Asa Pipkin, 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant; P.J. Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant; John M. Jackson, 3<sup>rd</sup> lieutenant. This company will leave for Gen. McCulloch's column on Saturday next. Our Hickory Plain friends, we learn, will give the Invincibles a dinner on that day. All who wish to cast their lots with this company can do so by repairing to Hickory Plain next Saturday. All must provide themselves with such arms as they can. This will make the sixth company from Prairie county.” Des Arc SEMI-WEEKLY CITIZEN, Wed. July 17, 1861, Page 2, column 1.



**(L) Ephern Selma Allen, brakeman (R) Lucien Henry Allen, engineer**



**Lucien Henry Allen Family - son of Aser C. Allen, grandson of Aser C. Pipkin. Homestead in Roger Mills County, Oklahoma, taken before statehood around 1906.**



**Edna and Lucien Henry Allen - grandparents of Bill Allen,  
and son of Aser Columbus Allen**