

James Valentine Allen

2 March 1843 - 9 September 1928

James Valentine Allen was born on 2 March 1843 in Murray, Caloway County, Kentucky. He was the sixth of eight children born to James Henry and Nancy McDaniel Allen. His mother and father were actually first cousins. They, along with other members of the Allen family were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Wilford Woodruff in 1835 but did not gather with the main body of the church for many years. As a small child, James moved with his family to Savannah, Andrew County, Missouri where they had settled by 1850.

At the age of nineteen, he moved west with his family to finally join the main body of the church and other family members already in Utah. In May 1862 his father and uncle, Lewis Allen, traveled in an independent company consisting of five ox drawn covered wagons and a buggy with a span of horses. They had other horses and these were used to drive the cattle. There were about fifteen head of milk cows, two young colts almost old enough to wean, and provisions for the trip.

They made their way through Colorado where they met up with his older brother, Marion Allen, who had been working in a mine at Pike's Peak. Marion was glad to be reunited with his family and to proceed west with them. They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in early October. After spending the winter with his Uncle, Andrew Jackson Allen in Draper, the family settled in Smithfield, Utah located in Cache Valley.

At age twenty three, James married Penina McCaslin Langley on 5 January 1867 and they were sealed in the Endowment House one week later. Penina was born 3 April 1849 in Salt Lake City, Utah to George Washington Langley and Martha McKinney Frost. She was seventeen at the time of their marriage. After their marriage, they settled in Richmond, Utah just a few miles north of Smithfield.

Just after their first anniversary, Penina gave birth to twins, Mary Frances and Amelia, who were born on 20 January 1867 in Richmond. Sadly Mary Frances died that same day. Another daughter, Minnie Candus was born 21 April 1870, also in Richmond. Less than a year later, Penina died on 28 February 1871 leaving James with two little girls to care for.



Mary Ann Fitzgerald Allen

James did not remain a widower for long. On 13 November 1871 he married Mary Ann Fitzgerald in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mary Ann was born 16 September 1852 in Draper, Utah. She was the daughter of Perry Fitzgerald and Ann Wilson. At the time of her marriage to James, she was nineteen years old and James was twenty eight.

James and Mary Ann lived in Richmond where their first daughter, Ella was born on 3 September 1874. She died just over a year later on 11 October 1874. Sometime later, James and Mary Ann moved to Smithfield where a son, Lafayette, was born on 16 January 1880. He did not survive his first year and died on 28 December 1880.

After the loss of two children, Mary Ann gave birth to three sons who lived to old age. They were James Bird born on 17 November 1884, Brent Taylor on 16 September 1886, and Cliff Fitzgerald on 15 March 1889. They were followed by another daughter, Georgia who was born on 4 February 1891. Georgia also died as an infant.

During his life, James was quite successful and well to do. He was a farmer and continued the family tradition of raising horses, which he loved. He was very particular with his tools and belongings. If his children, or hired help did not do a good job of whatever they were told to do, they would have to do it over until it

was satisfactory. This particularness was also reflected in his personal appearance as well. He was slender and when he was older, had white hair and beard.

In addition to farming, he also taught school, did contract work for the railroad, and was in the business of lending money. He also managed the Farmer's Mill in Smithfield. He also owned property in Burley, Idaho which his son James Bird farmed after his mission to England. On several occasions James drove to Burley by horse and buggy to attend to business there.

Mary Ann died on 20 March 1925 in Smithfield at the age of seventy two. James lived to eighty four years old and died on 9 Sep March 1928 in Long Beach, California where his daughter Minnie and son Cliff was living. He was buried on 13 September 1928 in Smithfield Utah. James' posterity included 30 grandchildren.

Compiled from information found in Seven Generations of Allens by Maude B. Allen along with family genealogy records.