

The sources cited herein are decoded in the [Bibliography](#) at the end of this report. [Appendix A](#) is devoted to the vital records abstracts I've compiled for James² (Samuel¹) and his children, and for one son (William⁴), and one grandson (David⁵) of James²'s son John³. [Appendix B](#) consists of a detailed analysis of some related ALLEN bible records. Additional, and more complete abstracts for the New England founders of [ALLEN Patrilineage 2](#) in America, with citations and comments, will be found in this [Evidential TIMELINE](#). The principal sections of the report proper are outlined in this...

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Introduction

This report is focused on James² and the conjugal family he created, first at SandwichMA, in Plymouth County, then on Martha's Vineyard (MV). Unfortunately, the evidence linking James to his putative MV children is scant to non-existent, and the filling out of his conjugal family, by the principal secondary source for this family, [Banks's History of Martha's Vineyard, in 3 volumes](#), and by me in Banks's wake, has had to rely heavily on two somewhat questionable presumptions: (1) that James's was the only substantial ALLEN family on MV by 1690; and (2) that the ALLENs for whom MV death records were later found who were born by 1690 were born in MV to James and his wife Elizabeth.

Before I review such evidence as there is for the conjugal family of James, and the two published reconstructions of those families (my analysis of a second, less reliable one, copied out of the family bible of a descendant, I've relegated to [Appendix B](#)) it's first necessary to establish that James ALLEN of Martha's Vineyard, was indeed the son of Samuel¹, and to trace his path from Braintree to Sandwich to Martha's Vineyard.

Robert Charles Anderson, our leading contemporary New England genealogist, has laid down two dicta for sound genealogy that it would be well to keep in mind for this journey^[1]:

- (1) All statements must be based only on accurately reported, carefully documented, and exhaustively analyzed records.
- (2) You must have a sound, explicit reason for saying that any two individual records refer to the same person.

All too many genealogists just assemble whatever evidence they can readily find about persons who bear the name of their subject, and just blithely assume that it all pertains to the same person—say a person named James Allen. Or worse, they just copy out of some published secondary genealogical material that has no discernible evidential foundation.

Anderson's rules require, in practice, that one dig deep and compile all the evidence concerning all the James Allens whose careers may at all overlap, and sort them out into identities, making each the protagonist of a particular plausible, non-overlapping narrative.

Tracking Samuel¹'s son, James², to Martha's Vineyard (MV)

That Samuel¹ of Braintree had a son named James is evidenced by his 2Aug1669 will (proved 16Sep1669), which I've transcribed and thoroughly analyzed in the [Will of Samewell Allin of Braintree](#). But there were several James ALLEN contemporary to Samuel¹'s son, and it's necessary to try to build at least a circumstantial case that his son James² was the one who ended up on Martha's Vineyard.

Samuel's will also names as a legatee his "son-in-law Josiah Standish". That there was only one Josiah (or sometimes "Josias") STANDISH in records of New England is indicated by **Savage** 4:162, **Torrey** 2:1430, and Robert Charles Anderson, in *Anderson-Pilgrims*, 453, who have all accepted that it was this Josiah/Josias who married Sarah, a daughter of Samuel ALLEN of Braintree, as Josiah's second wife—sometime after Jul1665 when the first wife of Josiah of Duxbury died, and before Samuel¹ published his will in 1669.

This is one of the two key pieces of evidence supporting the identification of Samuel¹'s son James with the James who settled on Martha's Vineyard—the other being the 1Jul1668 document in which Thomas Mayhew, the self-styled "Governor" and "Lord of the Manor" of MV, authorized William Pabodie, Josiah Standish, and James Allin to purchase land on MV from the Indian sachem Josias of Takemmy—transcribed in **Banks-MV2**(Annals of West Tisbury,7-8).

¹ Robert Charles Anderson, *Elements of Genealogical Analysis* (2014), xii.

Other, Circumstantial, Evidence linking James² Allen of MV to his origins

As noted, there were several James ALLENS of Massachusetts contemporary to Samuel¹'s son James², and evidence of propinquity of residence is, of course, at best merely circumstantial evidence of relationship. But an accumulation of such evidence can strengthen and fill out a case like the present one where more specific relationship evidence is scant. In early America, when travel was mostly by foot, unless a man owned a horse that he could spare from the necessary farm chores, most transactions, whether personal, legal, economic, or religious, took place within local neighborhoods—or in New England, within individual townships—or at most emanating out into a bordering township.

Savage 1:31-32 notes two contemporary James ALLENS besides the one who left tracks in SandwichMA. There was one who was admitted a freeman of Dedham in 1647, but he was having children as early as Ann, b.4Dec1639—clearly this James was a rough contemporary of James²'s father, Samuel¹. The other James Allen in **Savage** was a well documented minister and an inhabitant of Boston in the early to mid 1660s when the SandwichMA James was having three daughters born there between 1663-1667 (see [Appendix A](#) or my **TIMELINE** for documentation of these SandwichMA births).

Meanwhile, according to **TisbVR**, 195, there's a gravestone on Martha's Vineyard, in the West Tisbury cemetery (where James of MV primarily settled), for a James Allen who died 25Jul1714, aged 78—or so it supposedly read at some time in the past when the inscription was still readable. This James was thus born about 1636. If this Martha's Vineyard James was indeed the son of Samuel¹ of Braintree, it would help strengthen the identification if we could account for James²'s whereabouts from the time he came of age about 1657 until the MV real estate deal went down in 1668-1669, just before his father died.

To shed light on this question, I've included items in my **TIMELINE** that show that the other two partners to the 1668 MV real estate deal, William Pabodie and Josiah Standish (son of Miles and brother-in-law of James², and the only adult of that name then in New England), resided in Duxbury during the 1660s; that Bridgewater was created from the western portion of Duxbury in 1656 and at that time also bordered Braintree to the north; that James's older brother, Samuel² settled in Bridgewater by 4Dec1660 when his first child was born in Bridgewater; and that the marriage of Josiah's older brother Miles² was recorded in East Bridgewater (adjacent to Duxbury) in 1660.

The first likely appearance of James² (Samuel¹) in the records is as the James/Jeames Allen who fathered three daughters in SandwichMA in the 1660s: Amey, b.14Aug1663; Mary, b.22Dec1635; and Abigale, b.28Dec1667, just six months before James Allin was authorized to purchase land in MV, after which we hear no more of James in Sandwich.

Sandwich is out of the area comprised by Duxbury-Bridgewater-Braintree, though it's just down the road in adjacent Plymouth County, on near Cape Cod, whose southern tier of townships is the closest land to MV. Sandwich is also where Samuel¹'s close relative George¹ ALLEN and most of his children had settled, after spending some time in WeymouthMA, where Samuel¹ had also initially settled. In fact, this putative appearance of a son of Samuel¹ in Sandwich, is yet another piece of circumstantial evidence to support the incontrovertible genetic evidence that George¹ and Samuel¹ ALLEN belonged to the same [patrilineage](#), and were probably very close relatives (I've guessed that they were uncle and nephew, respectively)^[2].

That James ALLEN of Sandwich was James², the son of Samuel¹ of Braintree, and also the James Allin who joined in the Martha's Vineyard real estate deal, is also suggested by the fact that when the deal was

² In fact James of Sandwich has thought by many to be a likely son of George¹, though no convincing evidence that George¹ had a son named James has ever been found. The evidence I've assembled and briefly reviewed here makes it far far more likely that James of Sandwich was merely a relative of George¹, and my paper, "[Two New England Patriarchs: George¹ & Samuel¹ ALLEN](#)" has, I think, made a strong case that the associations between these two, now known, close relatives, wasn't confined to just this overlap of Samuel's second son James in Sandwich during the 1660s.

consummated by a 2Aug1669 deed from Sachem Takemmy (according to **Banks-MV2**(Annals of West Tisbury,8-9), the three buyers who had been authorized by Mayhew were joined by a fourth, James Skiffe, Jr. I've included in my evidential TIMELINE one piece of evidence that places this James Skiffe in Sandwich on 18May1659 (when James Skeff was married to Elezebeth Nabor), and there is probably other evidence to this effect as well. Why did James Skiffe, Jr., of Sandwich also become a party to the MV real estate deal? Most likely because his participation was invited by his neighbor, James Allen of Sandwich.

Thus, three of the four partners in this foundational Martha's Vineyard real estate deal were neighbors to each other in the area of Braintree, Bridgewater, and Duxbury, and when James of Braintree, and perhaps also of Bridgewater, removed to Sandwich in the early 1660s (moving out of the neighborhood he grew up in), he was probably already acquainted with his two future business partners, William Pabodie and Josiah Standish of Duxbury, and acquired a third, James Skiffe, whom he had long known in Sandwich.

Reconstructing James²'s Conjugal Family

Although I've abstracted below (in [Appendix A](#)) all of the vital records I could find for James² and his children, and followed up further than that for the MV lineage of one of my ALLEN Patrilineage 2 Project members, vital records for Martha's Vineyard before 1700 are virtually non-existent, by which time all of James's children were born and a number were married. And because even after regular vital record keeping set in, death records were often omitted, we have to guide us in the reconstruction of his conjugal family only a few death records for his children, some usefully supplemented by gravestone inscriptions that give ages at death. And, as another complicating factor, some of these children married off-island.

As a result, short of tacking the primary records of MV and elsewhere myself (and all the work I've done on this line has been essentially *gratis*), [my own reconstruction of James's conjugal family](#), which I've posted to the Patrilineage 2 Project Descendancies page, is largely derivative of the two secondary sources that have come most readily to hand.

These two sources are Banks's *History of Martha's Vineyard*, and what I've chosen to call the Ancestral Bible Records of William Allen, Jr., of Maine (1780-1873). Banks's History is fairly well known to New England genealogists, and well respected, while the second source is obscure, and as it turns out quite unreliable, and I've made virtually no use of it in my own reconstructions. To determine this, though, has required a detailed analysis—and I've published this as [Appendix B](#).

Banks's *History of Martha's Vineyard*

The main secondary source for James² Allen and his Martha's Vineyard descendants is Charles Edward Banks's three volume *History of Martha's Vineyard* (1929), which I've outlined structurally in the Bibliography. Banks was a highly respected New England genealogist for his day and he seems to have canvassed the primary records of MV (including the detailed records of its several towns) very thoroughly, and though, as with most pre-1990 or so genealogies, citations are lacking to the primary sources for the author's conclusions, there is reason to be fairly confident that most are well founded.

The genealogical highlights for James²'s line of ALLENs is a genealogical sketch of James² at **Banks-MV2:25-28**, and in an article title "Allen Family" that runs to nearly 15 pages, at **Banks-MV3:3-38**, we are treated to a reconstruction, not only of James²'s conjugal family, but (in a simplified numbered NEHGRegister style format, to the conjugal families of many of his sons, and their sons, and beyond, until one of these patrilineal ALLEN descendants removed off island. And because this third volume of Banks's *History*, devoted entirely to family genealogies, is the culmination of the two that preceded it, he was able to come up with a few words about the occupation of each ALLEN family head, and/or the offices, credentials, or honorifics they achieved, while in the cases of the most prominent ALLENs, including the founder, James² himself, more detail is to found scattered through the two volumes of local MV history.

To support my own reconstruction of James²'s conjugal family, I've looked through most of the ALLEN references in Banks Volumes 1 and 2, and also searched the index of the rather comprehensive NEHGS American Ancestors database for ALLENs *et al.* with the same parameters of name and dates to try to ground Banks's conclusions more specifically and comprehensively in the primary records. Unfortunately, one key set of records available to Banks, but not readily to me, are the probate records for the island (for DukesCoMA), which don't seem to have been digitized yet by the Society.

Published Reconstructions of the Conjugal Family of James² ALLEN of Martha's Vineyard

Here is Banks's reconstruction of James² (Samuel¹)'s conjugal family:

{from Banks-MV3:4-7, and for 3-Benjamin Banks-MV2([Annals of West Tisbury](#)):65-66}

2-James, m. Elizabeth PERKINS
 3-Amy (14Aug1663 SandwichMA -); m. 7Dec1683 Joseph HATCH
 3-Mary (23Dec1665 SandwichMA -); m. 26Apr1685 Thomas LASSELL
 3-Abigail (28Sep1667 SandwichMA -); m. 13Dec1688 Samuel SEABURY
 3-Ruth (1670 -); m. Lt. Edward BANGS
 3-Ebenezer (1672-14May1733); m. Rebecca RUSSELL
 3-James (1674-14Feb1723/4); m. Mary BOURNE
 3-Ichabod (1676- 1Dec1803, aged 87);
 m1. 25Dec1701 Elizabeth BELCHER; m2. Elizabeth SYMONDS;
 m3. Elizabeth [MAYHEW]; m4. Elizabeth _?_
 3-Samuel (1678-10Jul1755, aged 78); m. Mary TILTON
 3-John (1682-7Oct1767 aged 85); m. 1Mar1715/6 Margaret HOMES
 3-Joseph (1685-10Mar1726/728 aged 48); m. Patience BOURNE
 3-Benjamin (1689-1754 aged 72); m. 5Apr1712 Elizabeth CROCKER

and here, for comparison, is the version of this family in the Ancestral Bible Records of William Allen of Maine, my analysis of which, and reasons for doubting it's validity, you will find in [Appendix B](#):

{from: [NEHGRegister 83\(Oct1929\):507-508](#)}

2-James, m. Elizabeth PERKINS
 3-Mary (1664 Sandwich[MA] -); m. _?_ LAISDALL
 3-Abigail (1669 Sandwich[MA] -); m. _?_ SEABURY
 3-Ruth (1669 Sandwich[MA] -); m. _?_ BANGS
 3-Sarah (1669 Sandwich[NA] -); m. _?_ LUCE
 3-Ebenezer (1671-1733 aged 62)-magistrate, Esq.
 3-James (1674-1724 aged 50); m. Mary BOURN; resided Chilmark
 3-Ichabod (1676-1755 aged 79); m1. Elizabeth ALLEN; m2. Elizabeth CLIFFORD; farmer
 3-Samuel (1678-1755 aged 77); m. Mary TILTON; resided Chilmark; farmer
 3-John (1680-1764 aged 84); m. Margaret HOMES, resided Chilmark; trader, Major
 3-Joseph (1680-1728 aged 48); m. Patience BOURN, resided Tisbury; farmer
 3-Benjamin (1682-1754 aged 72); m. Elizabeth CROCKER,
 resided Cape Elizabeth[ME]; A.M. Yale, clergyman
 3-Moses (-1722); resided Chilmark-"a good young man"

Although this latter family reconstruction was published in 1929 after Banks's 1911 *History of MV*, the latest date in the Bible records notes the death of the Bible's original owner, William Allen, in 1873, and unless the very extensive Ancestral reconstructions in this Bible were done by someone other than William (perhaps by the person who added William's death record to the next previous death records of William's "Grandmother Martha", and [brother] Bartlett, the Banks version may have drawn on the Bible version (in its original manuscript form), but not the other way around—else the Bible version would surely have included the Banks data on the three Sandwich-born daughters.

It appears that neither of these genealogists had any real basis for specifying the birth years of most of the sons from James³ (in 1674), through Samuel³ (in 1678), and I suspect that the Bible record version just guessed that they occurred in the typical every two year pattern (with no intervening daughters), while

that the Banks version just copied that sequence and the dates from the Bible version. Otherwise, it appears that these two versions were quite independent of each other.

To support my analysis, following, I've compiled the published abstracts of all the early ALLEN vital records for MV and a few from other jurisdictions to [Appendix A](#), below.

James² ALLEN's Wife, Elizabeth

Both Banks and the William Allen Bible records have identified James²'s wife as Elizabeth Perkins, but I have rejected that in favor of Torrey's "[Elizabeth \[Partridge\] \(not PERKINS\)](#)". I haven't researched the underpinnings of Torrey's conclusion myself, but Torrey was both comprehensive in his research, and judicious in his conclusions, and was usually right. Moreover, his work has been extensively scrutinized and built on since his demise. The square brackets simply mean that the name is not based on a marriage record per se, and I've provided the link to Torrey's entry for James ALLEN, because the actual evidence he relied upon is to be found somewhere in the sources he cites, and the key for identifying these sources will be found in Volume 3 of this NEHGS-published work (you can access that volume in the online database through the "Volume" pulldown box).

James² ALLEN's Children

I've dismissed the supposed children Sarah and Moses, proposed in the Ancestral Bible records version of James²'s family (analyzed in [Appendix B](#)), because I know of no actual evidence that points to the existence of such children, and Banks evidently found no evidence either.

James²'s First Three Daughters, of SandwichMA: Amy, Mary, and Abigail

The existence and birth of James²'s first three daughters, Amy, Mary, and Abigail, is well grounded in the vital records of Sandwich, abstracted in [Appendix A](#). The third of these, Abigale, was born in Sandwich on 18Dec1667.

Ruth³ (James²) ALLEN, born say 1670

married by 1691 Edward BANGS, in Eastham, BarnstableCoMA

Since there is no birth record for James²'s putative daughter Ruth in Sandwich or anywhere else in MA from 1668-1690, she was presumably born on MV—which means that there is no birth record for her there either, because, inexplicably, neither James² nor any of the other prominent founders and officials of Tisbury and Chilmark emulated the practice in virtually all other Massachusetts villages of systematically maintaining vital records. And since, according to Banks's History, there was no settled minister on western MV until after 1690, and ministers who kept records of the births, baptisms, and marriages of their congregations, considered these to be private diaries and took them with them when they left, there are no church records either.

Also, no primary records based marriage records comes up for a Ruth ALLEN in the NEHGS-AA database between 1690-1715, when a daughter of James² would have been of marriageable age.

However, I've tentatively accepted the next child proposed by Banks, a daughter Ruth, on the strength of [Torrey's postulation of a marriage](#) between one Ruth [ALLEN] and Edward BANGS by 1691 in Eastham, BarnstableCoMA (a town on Cape Cod facing the Atlantic Ocean, but not too far by sea from MV), and on the need to fill the gap in the birth order of over four year that would otherwise result until the birth of James²'s first son, Ebenezer.

It doesn't help much that there are also no birth records in the AA database for children of a Ruth (Allen) Banks, wife of Edward, though I did find a rather vague BANGS FAMILY genealogy (at NEHGS 10(Apr1856):157, that listed children of a Capt. Edward Bangs and Ruth (no maiden name and no grounding for Capt. Edward): Ruth(1699), Mercy, Jonathan, Joshua, and Ebenezer—the latter perhaps named for Ruth's brother.

James² ALLEN's Sons

That leaves sons Ebenezer, James, Ichabod, Samuel, John, Joseph, and Benjamin, which both sources have listed in the same order—the middle sons with the same specified, but only fuzzily founded, birth years. I've tried to sharpen up, but also qualify these dates, based on the handful of death records, and this has caused me to switch one pair of sons; otherwise, my own reconstruction of James²'s family closely parallel's Banks's.

Both my reconstruction and Banks's rely heavily on the presumption that James² was the only ALLEN family head on Martha's Vineyard before 1700, and Banks's apparently exhaustive canvass of the public records of the island, probably supplemented by private sources as well, supports that presumption.

A bit more tenuous is our shared presumption that the ALLENS who later appear in the death records of the towns of Chilmark and Tisbury (where James² and his sons mostly settled), and whose ages at death place their births within the scope of James's conjugal family (1670-1690) were all his sons. James² apparently left no will, and only some of these putative sons otherwise appear in the material comprised in the first two volumes of Banks's History, so the conclusions reached in the genealogical table of the third (at Banks-MV3:4, and my minor modifications and qualifications of same, should be weighed accordingly. I, at least, have tried to expose the actual evidential foundations for each of these children in what follows.

There is, however, one other factor that strengthens the circumstantial evidence that the early ALLENS of MV were sons of James² ALLEN, one of the four original purchasers, and the chief founder of Tisbury: both he and two of his putative sons, Ebenezer and John, were very prominent in the island government. A few words about Martha's Vineyard as a jurisdiction, and the structure of British colonial government may be in order.

James² and the Settlement and Government of MV

The first settlement of MV was in 1642 at the future Edgartown (originally Great Harbor) at the eastern end of the island. The smaller harbor at Tisbury, the island's northernmost point, closest to Cape Cod, didn't begin to be settled informally until 1660, and the large purchase of lands in that area from Sachem Takemmy in 1669 by James Allen and three others marked it's real beginnings as a settlement. Thomas Mayhew, who authorized that purchase had earlier acquired the overall crown rights to MV from Sir Ferdinando Gorges, and when he authorized the large purchase at Tisbury, created (at least in his own mind) the quasi-feudal Manor of Tisbury, with himself as Lord, though this governmental structure was largely anachronistic in British colonial America. As of 1671, three island settlements could be identified: Edgartown; Tisbury proper (the harbor area), and western Tisbury, called by Mayhew the Manor of Tisbury, but not long after known by the Indian name of Chilmark.

Meanwhile, with these settlements growing, New York claimed overall jurisdiction over MV in 1683 and erected at that time as DukesCoNY, but after some controversy, the island was ceded to Massachusetts in 1695, as DukesCoMA.

According to Banks's biography of James² ALLEN^[3], he and his family settled originally on land in western Tisbury (which was only 1892 formally designated the township of West Tisbury), but on the road to Chilmark, and sometime between 1678 (when James was still "of Tisbury") and 1686, he purchased additional land and moved down the road to Chilmark village. Banks further tells us, citing DukesCo deeds, that in 1698 James deeded half of his home lot in Chilmark to Ebenezer Allen on reversion, after

³ Banks-MV2([West Tisbury](#)):25-28 .

the death of both of his parents, James and his wife^[4]. Although I haven't seen this deed, it would appear to be direct evidence that Ebenezer ALLEN of MV was James's son, and also according to Banks, James deeded some of his former land in Tisbury in 1705 to Samuel Allen^[5]. Ebenezer, like his father James, was apparently an active land speculator all over the island, and on 31Mar1702 James sold land to Ebenezer that he had purchased in 1692 in the Oak Bluffs area of northern Edgartown^[6].

British colonial government at the county level comprised at least a county court, with a number of appointed justices to attend it as magistrates, and act otherwise as justices of the peace. The administration and record keeping for the court, and for the county in general, fell to the county clerk, who might have one or two deputies. The chief legal administrative official and authority of the county, was the county sheriff, who would likely have deputies and or local constables under him. And finally, since all colonies were set up as republics of counties, each county would send one or two representatives to the colonial legislature—in Massachusetts called The General Court. There would also be a county militia, with officers ranked from Ensign to the commander, who would be a Colonel or Lt.Colonel, though the militia was of greatly varying significance, depending on the locus and scope of any Indian or military threats.

In Massachusetts the function of county governments was minimal, and practically confined to the courts, whose business consisted largely of adjudicating suits at common law, and processing estates in probate. However, the holders of these important public offices, especially the sheriff's office and county judgeships, were ever after entitled to the equivalent honorifics of Esq., Gent., or Mr.

ALLEN Officeholders of Early Martha's Vineyard

Banks has compiled a list of all the MV (DukesCo) officeholders, and it shows that James Allen was made a county justice in 1692. These judicial appointments were generally for life, subject to recall or resignation, and it's likely that James served until his death in 1714.

Meanwhile, Ebenezer Allen was chosen county sheriff as early as 1701, when he was only about 29, and he served in that position until 1714, when John Allen became sheriff and served, apparently until his death about 1733, at which time Eleazer Allen, presumably Ebenezer³'s son, born 16May1706 (see [Appendix A: Vital Records](#)), took over the position. Although this falls short of being conclusive evidence that Sheriff John Allen was Ebenezer's brother, the Oct1767 death record and gravestone inscription of John Allen, in his 83rd year (thus born Feb1684/5 ± 6m, which slots him into James²'s family), and the sequence of sheriffs, make for very strong circumstantial evidence that he too was a brother of Ebenezer and a son of James².

**Ebenezer³(James²) ALLEN, born 14Nov1672 ± 6m, died 14May1733 in Chilmark
married 14Apr1698 Rebecca RUSSEL, in BarnstableMA**

Going by the indexes to Banks's *History of MV*, the first ALLEN to appear in the records of MV besides James² was Ebenezer, to whom ([as we have seen](#)) he conditionally deeded half of his home place in 1698 (presumably to marry on), and who on these grounds alone is the best candidate to be James²'s oldest son. Moreover, if Ebenezer's sister Ruth was born about 1670, as her putative marriage by 1691 would suggest,

⁴ Banks-MV2(West Tidbury):27, citing DukesCoMA Deeds 2:41.

⁵ Banks-MV2:27, citing DukesCoMA Deeds 1:299. Banks fails to explain why this later deed to Samuel was in an earlier book than the deed to his putative brother Ebenezer.

⁶ Banks-MV2([Oak Bluffs](#)):20, citing DukesCoMA Deeds 1:151, and 2:40.

then we may guess that Ebenezer was born about 1672—and any later than that his appointment as county sheriff in 1701 would become increasingly improbable^[7].

There are records for two marriages of Ebenezer ALLENs to Rebeccas in 1698, one to Rebecca Scate in BridgewaterMA, and the other to Mrs. Rebecca Russell in Barnstable (town), on Cape Cod, and as the abstracts of their first children's birth records (in [Appendix A](#)) indicate, these were two different people. In fact, other evidence shows that these two Ebenzers were first cousins: Ebenezer of Bridgewater being the son of Samuel² (Samuel¹ of Braintree), and Ebenezer of Chilmark being the son of James² (Samuel¹).

Torrey evidently conflated these two Ebenzers, because he sets the marriage of the Bridgewater Ebenezer in Boston (though I can find no record of such a marriage there), where there were other SCATES/SKEATHs, while the Ebenezer who married Mrs. Rebecca Russell, is said to have repaired with her later to Bridgewater—even though the Chilmark VRs and the records of DukesCoMA (Martha's Vineyard) in general continue to associate James²'s son Ebenezer with MV.

Even more confusingly, Banks too seems to join in this conflation because he says {at Banks-MV3:4} that Ebenezer made a will and died in 1733, yet the only probate record that comes up for an Ebenezer ALLEN in the NEHGS-AA database in 1733 is the administration of the estate of Ebenezer Allen of Bridgewater by brother Ephraim Allen, yet James²'s son had no brother Ephraim—a name that does, however, run in the Bridgewater descendants of Samuel³.

However, Banks also tells us that Ebenezer³ made his will 6Feb1730/31, and that it was proved 14Jun1733, and just as we would assume for such a prominent townsman, there is, in fact, a death record for Ebenezer, Esq. in Chilmark VRs dated 14May1783 (but surely a misreading of 1733), and a corresponding gravestone that says that he died in his 62nd year, which translates to a birth date of 14Nov1672 ± 6months.

There is one additional complication in identifying Ebenezer³ (James²) with the bridegroom of Mrs. Rebecca Russell of Barnstable: on 18Dec1691, Ralph Allin of Barnstable made his will, and left a legacy to his son Ebenezer. How do we know that it wasn't this Ebenezer of Barnstable who married Mrs. Rebecca Russell in Barnstable?

I expect that further research in the Barnstable records would rule this out, but we can reasonably do so nonetheless, just on the strength of the onomastic (child-naming) evidence. Ebenezer and Rebeckah of Chilmark named their first two daughters, respectively, Elizabeth and Martha—which happen to be the names, respectively, of the mother of Ebenezer³, and of Rebecca Russell of Barnstable, whose parents have been identified as Jonathan and Martha [MOODY] RUSSELL, of Barnstable, who, according to Torrey, were married before 1681, with Jonathan born about 1655. An onomastic study of New Englanders found that about two thirds of first daughters were named for their mothers, and in this case both of the couple's mothers were honored at the first opportunity. Also, the couple named their first two sons, Jonathan and James, presumably for their respective fathers (but with the order reversed). I'd say that that's a QED.

James³ (James²) ALLEN, born 14Aug1673 ± 1yr, died 14Feb1723/4 (aged abt 50), in Chilmark married say 1701 Mary [BOURNE?]

This next son is the first of three putative sons of James² with no records of the birth of any of the children whom Banks-MV3:5: Bathsheba(b.1701; Sylvanus(1702); Joshua(1705; m.14Dec1725 Agnes HOMES); Mary; Eunice; Timothy; Sarah; and Ezra(b.1718).

There is also no record of James³'s supposed marriage to Mary BOURNE, although Torrey has accepted that marriage, on no better evidence than Banks's version of James's conjugal family, and Torrey

⁷ And as if that weren't enough, on 21Jun1701 Ebenezer was appointed to a committee of two to call a permanent Congregationalist minister to the island for the Tisbury congregation—Banks-MV2([West Tisbury](#)):78.

also cites the William Allen Bible record that I've analyzed thoroughly in Appendix B and found to be quite flawed and unreliable.

In fact, the only primary record we have for James is a gravestone transcription dated 14Feb1723/4, with a somewhat vague age at death of "about 50".

I also came across no references to James³ in the first two volumes of Banks's History of Martha's Vineyard, though it's possible that I missed one or two because the references to his father, James², are legion and I haven't chased down all of them.

Banks claims that: James³'s wife Mary, was Mary BOURNE, sister of the Patience BOURNE who married James³'s younger brother Joseph; that Mary predeceased her husband by a year or two; and that James³'s estate was divided in Apr1725. All this is at least plausible, and if there is indeed an estate record it ought to name James³'s surviving children, but as usual there are no citations in Banks, and nothing comes up for this James's probate records in the NEHGS-AA database—probably because the DukesCoMA probate records haven't yet been digitized. However, in favor of James³'s marriage to Mary BOURNE, see my discussion of the putative marriage of his brother Joseph³ to Patience BOURNE, [below](#).

**Samuel³(James²) ALLEN, born 12Jan1676/7 ± 6m, died 12Jul1755 (aged 78)
married say 1703 Mary _?_**

There are also no vital records for Samuel besides his death record, and no references to him in Banks apart from the brief paragraph on him in the "Allen Family" genealogies article in Volume 3. Banks (and also the William Allen Bible Record which I suspect Banks copied in this respect) has Samuel born in 1678, but ironically that is ruled out by the one piece of evidence we have: his death record, including the "aged 78" that is supposedly taken from his gravestone. The year 1678 might be justified if the gravestone read "in his 78th year", or "æ 78", but we have to go by the evidence as reported. As a result of this adjustment, I've flipped the birth order between Samuel and Ichabod, whose birth year is even more up in the air.

Banks says that Samuel's wife was Mary Tilton, and since TILTON was one of the most common surname on MV, yet hardly found anywhere else, this attribution is highly plausible, though, as usual, not evidence is provided to back it up. Chilmark Vrs(Deaths) include a death for Mary [ALLEN], wife of Samuel, on 25Dec1756, and Banks says that she was 80, and therefore born about 1676—again, without providing any evidence. If this is so, however, Mary's birth year would better consort with that of her putative husband, Samuel, also likely born in 1676.

Importantly, Banks tells us that Samuel made a will on 14Jan1750 that was probated 2Aug1755, and this presumably provides some support for the children he lists for this couple: Jethro (abt 1705), Hannah(say 1707), Jedidah (say 1709), Amy(abt 1711), Maria(say 1713), and Samuel (abt 1720).

**Ichabod³(James²) ALLEN, born abt 1678, died abt Jan1752^[8], perhaps in Chickamoo, MV
married 1st 25Dec1701, Elizabeth BELCHER of Braintree
married 2nd 27Jul1715, Elizabeth SIMON[D]S, in Boston
married 3rd 4Nov1728, Elizabeth CLIFFORD, in ChilmarkMA**

Ichabod is nearly as shadowy as his brothers James³ and Samuel. Banks-MV3:5 does have a brief section on him, and a list of children, and there is exactly one other reference to Ichabod in the first two volumes of his history, that merely notes that Ichabod settled in Chickamoo, a satellite village of Chilmark, where his oldest brother Ebenezer had at times owned land.

⁸ Banks says that Ichabod's will was dated 21Jan1751 and probated 1Feb1752. Usually wills were probated within a month or two of testator's death, and quite often they were drawn up not long before that, in contemplation of imminent death. The year 1752 in Britain and colonies was the first for which January 1st was the first day of the new year, supplanting March 25th, and I suspect that the actual date of the will was 21Jan1752 as well.

We are told that Ichabod married four times, all to Elizabeths, and I've compiled the corresponding marriage records for the first three of these putative marriages (the 4th Elizabeth isn't identified by her maiden surname), even though the records of these marriages are widely scattered—at Braintree, Boston, and finally Chilmark.

Banks-MV3:5 says that the first of these putative marriages was between Ichabod of Martha's Vineyard, and Elizabeth Belcher of Braintree, but the only VR source that comes up for this in the NEHGS-AA database is to an abstract of a note in the Waldo Sprague collection that provides only a year date (1701) and no primary records source. Apparently, the VRs of Braintree haven't otherwise been comprehensively gathered and published, and there is no such marriage record in any of the MV towns. Yet Banks has a specific date for this marriage of 25Dec1701, perhaps from a Bible or other private family record.

Since there are also no records for the births of any of Ichabod's children, this 25Dec1701 marriage date is the only thing we have to go on in estimating his birth date, which I have guessed was say 1678, given the calculated birth date of Ichabod's brother Samuel in roughly Dec1676—thus, I've switched the order of birth for Samuel and Ichabod.

This is all quite vague and unconvincing, but Banks says that Ichabod left a will dated 21Jan1751, and probated 1Feb1752, which presumably names his widow (the 4th Elizabeth) and his surviving children, whom Banks has identified as: Moses (say 1702 - 25Feb1721/2); Benjamin (abt 1706 -); Thomas (abt 1710-); Elizabeth (24Oct1716); Ebenezer (abt 1721 -); and several others unnamed.

John³(James²) ALLEN, born Feb1684/5±6m, died 7/17Oct1767 (in 83rd yr) in Chilmark married 1Mar171[5/]6 Margaret HOMES, in ChilmarkMA

John & Margaret had twelve children, and for a change all of their births were recorded in the Chilmark Vital Records, as is the marriage of their parents, as well as their prominent father, John's, death.

As noted above, John succeeded his brother Ebenezer as DukesCoMA Sheriff in 1714, and he apparently held that position until 1733, when he was succeeded in turn by his nephew, Ebenezer³'s son, Eleazer⁴ Allen, and when he died in 1767 his death records show that during his life he attained the rank of Colonel (or Lt. Colonel) of militia, which would have put him in command of the county militia.

Banks says also, that like his father and older brother Ebenezer³, John was a large land owner and speculator, and one other item comes up for him in the indexes to Volumes 1 & 2 of Banks's *History*: in 1733 John sued the local schoolmaster, Francis Bryan, for punishing his son William "with a large cane or walking staff" (presumably he thought it unfit treatment of the son of a Gentleman), and though John lost the case, the schoolmaster departed the island shortly thereafter—which caused the town government to be charged in the DukesCo court for not having a schoolmaster.

Joseph³(James²) ALLEN, born 10Sep1685±6m, died 10Mar1726/7 (in 42nd yr) in Tisbury married 1Mar171[5/]6 Margaret HOMES, in ChilmarkMA

There are no birth or marriage records for James²'s next son, Joseph³, though there's a death record for him in Tisbury VRRs, based on a gravestone in the West Tisbury village cemetery that also identifies him as a Lt. of militia. It may be remembered from what I've extracted from Banks, above, that Joseph was deeded land by his father in 1705 that had apparently been James²'s original home lot in western Tisbury before the father moved the family down the road to Chilmark. It would appear that Joseph settled on this land when he married, and remained there for all of his rather short life.

This Tisbury VRs show that Joseph and Patience's first child, Ruth, was born 16Jun1711, so we may guess that this couple was married say 1710—too late to appear in Torrey's *Marriages*, and no such marriage comes up otherwise in the NEHGS-AA database. However, the unique given name, Shearjashub, assigned to one of their children points to Shearjashub BOURNE of Sandwich as Patience's father, Sandwich being the town where James² ALLEN and his MV real estate partner James SKIFFE resided before they removed to MV.

Meanwhile, Banks-MV3:432-433 (the first two pages of the [James] SKIFFE FAMILY genealogy) indicates that Shearjashub Bourne married Bathshua, a daughter of James Skiffe Sr^[9], of Sandwich, and a sister of James² ALLEN's MV real estate partner, James Skiffe Jr, who like ALLEN, settled on MV—the marriage of Shearjashub Bourne and Bathshua Skiffe is accepted by Torrey and placed in Sandwich, listing a number of secondary sources.

[Sandwich VRs 1:9](#) confirm the birth of Shearjashub & Bathshua (Skiffe) Bourne's daughter Patience, on 20Apr1686, and also show a daughter Mary, born 21Oct1678. This is presumably the Mary Bourne who married Joseph³'s older brother James³ ALLEN say 1701. Neither of these post-1700 marriages come up in the NEHGS-AA database, probably because they took place at the brides' home town of Sandwich, whose marriage record from about 1692 until the 1800s seem to be missing—except for the Quaker and other church records, which have all been published in Sandwich VRs, and presumably digitized for AA.

On thing that can be said in favor of this pair of undocumented ALLEN-BOURNE marriages, is that in early America, most transactions of all kinds occurred between residents of the same neighborhood or village, and particularly within a set of "allied families", and it was very common for multiple siblings of one nuclear family to marry siblings of another nuclear family.

⁹ See Banks's biographical sketch of James Skiffe, Sr at Banks-MVS([West Tisbury](#)):71-72.

**Sarah³ (James²) ALLEN, born say 1687
married Josiah LUCE**

Banks indicated that this Josiah LUCE (born say 1685) was a last son of one of the original proprietors, Henry Luce, who founded the most proliferated family on MV. LUCES are thick in Tisbury, though there were only a handful in Chilmark. Banks even has a sketch fo Josiah at Banks-MV3:252, in which he is said to have married Sarah Allen, and fathered nine children by her, most of them in WindhamCT to which he and his family removed.

The problem with all this is that only two items comes up in the NEHGS-AA database for Josiah Luce from 1680-1750—the first, a record of the 18Dec1707 birth of Josiah Luce to Josiah & Sarah, in WindhamCT, and the other is the 7May1738 baptism of Josiah Luce in Edgartown, son of Sarah. Banks’s genealogical section on this couple shows as first daughter “Judah (Paddock)”, born 30Sep11705, and a second, Joshua, born 16Dec1707—presumably the Josiah born in WindhamCT a couple of days later.

**Benjamin³(James²) ALLEN, born 6Nov1689 ± 6m, died 6May1754 in 65th yr, in FalmouthME
married 5Apr1712 Mrs. Elizabeth CROCKER, in BarnstableMA**

Banks thought enough of this putative youngest son of James², to devote a whole biographical sketch to him in Banks-MV2(West Tisbury):65-68, where he details his somewhat checkered career, and even better he there transcribes an obituary published in the local Falmouth, Maine, newspaper where he died.

Benjamin was a minister and a graduate in 1708 of Yale, where one of his professors is said to have been the Rev. Jonathan Russell of BarnstableMA, the father of Benjamin’s oldest brother, Ebenezer³’s wife, Rebecca Russell. This, if true, connects him back to MV, and at any rate his marriage connects him to Barnstable where Ebenezer also married. The one other circumstance that favors ascribing him to James² is that he was born at just the right time.

I did find one other brief account of this Benjamin, in an ancient *Register* article, published at *NEHGR*(Apr1852)6:189...200, titled “[Subscribers to Prince’s Chronology](#)”—“Prince” being the ancient classic: Thomas Prince, *A Chronological History of New England...* (1736).

The article begins with a list of “subscribers” (original purchasers) of this American publication of 1736, described as “the chief literati of New England [of their day] ... the great majority of them ... born before 1700...”, and is followed by a short set of “[Brief Memoirs and Notices](#)”—apparently more or less contemporary (1852) contributions by NEHGS members concerning these original subscribers, the second of which (on page 200) is:

ALLEN, Rev. Benjamin, was born in Tisbury, Martha’s Vineyard, grad Y[ale] C[ollege] 1708, settled in S. Bridgewater, Ms. 1708; installed in the 2nd Parish of Falmouth, M[ain]e, now Cape Elizabeth, 10Nov1734, d. 6May1754 ae 65. He had several daughters but no sons.

---MS. letter of William Willis

William Willis’s account provides a thumbnail version of Banks’s later account, and I expect was used by Banks, who probably also had access to a Who’s Who type publication for Yale graduates from which he may have obtained the many more details on Benjamin’s career. Banks also, somehow, came up with the names of several of Benjamin’s children—a son, Joseph, who is supposed to have attended Harvard, and daughters Hannah, Elizabeth, Dorcas?, and two others, whom Banks can’t name, yet he has ascribed marriages to prominent men to all of these putative children.

What the Willis account uniquely adds, is the claim that Benjamin was “of Tisbury, Martha’s Vineyard”, so presumably there is, or was, some better evidence to that effect than I or Banks has been able to come up with.

APPENDIX A: Vital Records of James² (Samuel¹) and Descendants

The following abstracts, organized chronologically within family, are culled from the secondary sources identified in the [Bibliography](#); book and page references appear within {curly braces}, e.g. {ChilVR,11}.

Surnames are rendered in all caps, but only surnames other than ALLEN are included.

Data within [square brackets] has been interpolated or inferred from other records.

Abbreviations s/o=son of; d/o=daughter of; h/o=husband of; w/o=wife of; GS=gravestone inscription

▣ = born, † baptized, & = married, × = died

The death of James²—the only vital record for him

25Jul1714 × James, Esq. [h/o Elizabeth] a.78^[10]—GS in W.Tisbury village cem {TisbVR,195}

Third Generation ALLENs (the first three children of James², born in SandwichMA)

14Aug1663 ▣ Amey d/o Jeames {SandVR,17}

22Dec1665 ▣ Mary d/o Jeames {SandVR,17}

18Dec1667 ▣ Abigale d/o James {SandVR,17}

BOURNE Sisters of SandwichMA who Supposedly Married Sons of James²

21Oct1678 ▣ Mary d/o Sherejashub BOURNE {SandVR1:10}

20Apr1686 ▣ Patience d/o Sherejashub & Beshua BOURNE {SandVR1:10}

Third Generation ALLENs (the remaining children of James² and their conjugal families)

14Apr1698 & Ebenezer & Mrs. Rebecca RUSSELL, in BarnstableMA

{NEHGRegister 2(Jul1848):314—derived from BarnstableMA Town Records}

13Apr1701 ▣ Elisabeth to Eben[ezer] & Rebeckah {ChilVR,10}

6Sep1703 ▣ Martha to Eben[ezer] & Rebeckah {ChilVR,11}

16May1706 ▣ Eleazer to Eben[ezer] & Rebeckah {ChilVR,10}

3May1709 ▣ Abigal to Eben[ezer] & Rebeckah {ChilVR,09}

20May1711 ▣ Abigall to Eben[ezer] & Rebeckah {ChilVR,09}

12Sep1713 ▣ Jonathan to Eben[ezer] & Rebeckah {ChilVR,11}

8May1716 ▣ James to Eben[ezer] & Rebeckah {ChilVR,11}

3Nov1718 ▣ Benjamin (twin) to Eben[ezer] & Rebeckah {ChilVR,10}

3Nov1718 ▣ Joseph (twin) to Eben[ezer] & Rebeckah {ChilVR,11}

14May1783 [sic] × Ebenezer, Esq [GS: in 62nd yr]^[11] {ChilVR:83}

11Oct1698 & Ebenezer & Rebecca SCATE [SCOTT] {BridVR2:29}

4Oct1699 ▣ Sarah to Ebenezer & Rebekah {BridVR1:30}

6Mar1700/01 ▣ Rebeckah to Ebenezer & Rebekah {BridVR1:30}

14Feb1723/4 × James [h/o Mary BOURNE] aged abt 50 GS {ChilVR:84}

12Jul1755 × Samuel [h/o Mary] [GS: aged 78] {ChilVR,84}

¹⁰ Savage, whose *Dictionary* was published in 1860 has aged 77, and I suspect that the GS reads in his 78th year or æ 78.

¹¹ Given the Esq. designation, and the age at death, the year 1783 is surely a misreading of 1733.

Third Generation ALLENS (children of James² and their conjugal families—continued)

- 25Dec1701** & Ichabod of MV & Elizabeth BELCHER of Braintree {BanksMV3:5^[12]}
7Jul1715 & Ichabod & Eliza SIMON[D]S, in Boston^[13] {BRC28:56}
4Nov1728 & Ichabod & Elizabeth CLIFFORD {ChilVR,40}
by 1Feb1752 × Ichabod's will was probated on this date^[14] {BanksMV3:5}
- 1Mar171** [5/]6 & John & Margaret HOMES {ChilVR,40}
26Feb171 [6/]7 ♀ Katherine (twin) d/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,11}
26Feb171 [6/]7 ♀ Rebeckah (twin) d/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,12}
6Mar171 [8/]9 ♀ William s/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,12}
29Sep1720 ♀ Elizabeth d/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,10}
28Aug1722 ♀ Jane d/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,11}
17Sep1724 ♀ Margaret d/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,11}
3Apr1728 ♀ Mary d/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,11}
1Apr1730 ♀ John s/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,11}
20Jul1732 ♀ Roberts s/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,12}
2Sep1734 ♀ Jonathan s/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,11}
10Jun1739 ♀ Eleaz[e]r d/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,10}
23Jul1741 ♀ Hannah d/o John & Margaret {ChilVR,10}
17Oct1767 × John, Esq. [h/o Margaret] [GS: Col. John, Esq., 7Oct in 83rd yr] {ChilVR,84}
- 16Jun1711** ♀ Ruth d/o Joseph & Patience {TisbVR,13}
28Apr1716 ♀ Susanah d/o Joseph & Patience {TisbVR,13}
17Jul1723 ♀ Joseph s/o Joseph & Patience {TisbVR,12}
17Jul1723 ♀ Joseph s/o Joseph & Patience {TisbVR,12}
2Jun1725 ♀ Shearjashub s/o Joseph & Patience {TisbVR,12}
10Mar1726/7 × Jo^seph, Lt. [h/o Patience] in 42nd year {TisbVR,195, citing GS in W.Tisb Cem}
28Aug1727 ♀ Benjamin d/o Joseph & Patience {TisbVR,12}

This last child of Joseph was evidently born posthumously.

These children of Joseph & Patience shouldn't be confused with those of another, later, Joseph & Patience couple.

- 5Apr1712** & Mr. Benjamin Allen & Mrs. Elizabeth Crocker {BarnVR, [image 67](#)}

¹² The only other source that comes up in the NEHGS-AA database is a record dated just 1701 in a book on QuincyMA.

¹³ This marriage was also recorded in the Brattle Square [Presbyterian] Church Records.

¹⁴ No citation to the will, and neither a will nor any birth records for Ichabod's children come up in the NEHGS-AA database. Banks lists a 4th marriage for Ichabod before 1735—to a 4th Elizabeth, and 9 children for Ichabod (3 of them unnamed) with just estimated years of birth. The sons are Moses, Benjamin, Barnabas, Thomas, and Ebenezer..

Fourth and Fifth Generation ALLENs (son William⁴, and grandson David⁵, of John³ (James²))

13Nov1737	&	William & Sarah MAYHEW	{ChilVR,41}
5Nov1738	✦	Susanah s/o William & Sarah	{ChilVR,12}
21Jan1739/40	✦	Nathaniel s/o William & Sarah	{ChilVR,11}
11Feb1741/2	✦	David s/o William & Sarah	{ChilVR,10}
20Jun1745	✦	William s/o William & Sarah	{ChilVR,12}
4Feb1744/5	✦	Zach(eu)s s/o William & Sarah	{ChilVR,12}
2Jun1746	×	William, s/o John & Margaret [GS: in 27 th yr]	{ChilVR,85}
1Mar1774	&	David & Betsey NEWELL {BRC30:434}	[<i>another contemporary David Allen</i> ^[15]]
13Dec1764	&	David & Betty HATCH	{FalmVR,133}
16Jun1771	†	Betty d/o David & Betty	{FalmVR,1.1, citing 1 st Cong.Church recs}
16Jun1771	†	Sarah d/o David & Betty	{FalmVR,1.1, citing 1 st Cong.Church recs}
16May1773	†	Lydia Parker d/o David & Betty	{FalmVR,1.1, citing 1 st Cong.Church recs}
7May1775	†	Zacheus s/o David & Elizabeth	{FalmVR,1.1, citing 1 st Cong.Church recs}
13Feb1780	†	Nathaniel s/o David & Elizabeth	{FalmVR,1.1, citing 1 st Cong.Church recs}
15Aug1784	†	Rebecca d/o David & Elizabeth	{FalmVR,1.1, citing 1 st Cong.Church recs}
28Oct1787	†	David s/o David & Betty	{FalmVR,1.1, citing 1 st Cong.Church recs}
3Jun1812	×	David [GS: a71]; [private record: 3Jul aged 73] ^[16]	{EdgrVR,199}

¹⁵ There is, besides, a David Allen who on 6Nov1783 married Susanna MEDER on Nantucket, but Nantucket VR says that this David was the son of one Edward Allen.

¹⁶ The age discrepancy between the gravestone and the private records are probably due to some combination of: (1) the calendar changeover in 1752; (2) failure to understand that “ae ##” means “in his/her ##th year; and (3) bad math.

APPENDIX B: Ancestral Bible Records of William Allen, Jr., of Maine (1780-1873)

The subject, William Allen of Maine, was a 7th generation descendant of Samuel¹ ALLEN of Braintree, through his son James² Allen of Martha's Vineyard, and I've accordingly called him William7 for short.

William7's ALLEN ancestral records, and the bible records of his own children and grandchildren, were transcribed and published at *NEHGRegister* 83(Oct1929):507-511 by a long time member of the NEHGS. From these records we can say that William7 was born 16Apr1780, and died in 1873 at the age of 93, and that his patrilineal ancestry is William⁷ (William⁶, James⁵, Sylvanus⁴, James³-2, Samuel¹ of Braintree).

The *NEHGR* article begins with a set of generation-by-generation reconstructions of William7's ALLEN Ancestral Families, starting with the family of James², and continuing through the family of William7 himself—though family reconstructions are included for all seven of the sons of James², not just William7's ancestor, James³. Very little specific data is included for the individual children in these family reconstructions, but an effort was evidently made to compile for as many as possible: the year dates for birth and death, and age at death in years; the names of their principal town of residence; their occupation, and any offices held; and the name(s) of their spouse(s).

Next is a list of 28 ALLEN Marriages with year dates, in very rough chronological order; but this is merely a fraction of the many marriages noted in the first section, and includes many marriages that appear in subsequent sections of this overall record.

The next section begins with a brief rehearsal of William7's ancestry, and continues with reconstructions of his own conjugal family, and the families of his children, but these reconstructions consist only of the birth dates of William's children and grandchildren. With only a few scattered exceptions, this is also the only section of the record that provides specific dates, not just year dates.

The final section consists of a list of Deaths, beginning with an entry for George Allen of Sandwich, whom the compiler mistakenly thought was an ancestor of his immigrant ancestor, Samuel¹ of Braintree, and continuing through the death of William7 himself. Obviously, this last entry wasn't made by William7 himself, and without access to the original, which would allow us to compare the hands of the various entrants of this data, we can only try to infer this from the internal evidence. Fortunately, the final three entries in the Deaths list provide us with a valuable clue:

**Bartlett Allen, born 1781, died 1872, aged 90 yrs.
Grandmother Martha Allen, born 1732, died 1826, aged 94 years.
William Allen, born 1780, died 1873, aged 93 years. [i.e. William7]**

The Ancestral Families section, "Fifth Generation" shows that Bartlett was the next younger brother of William7, and all of their siblings predeceased William. Meanwhile, the same Ancestral Families section, as well as other material shows that "Grandmother Martha" was *née* Martha Athearn, the wife of William7's grandfather, James⁵. Thus, it would appear that it was William7 himself who compiled the deaths list, but that someone who survived him, probably one of his surviving children, two of whom were ministers, completed his record of Deaths in the same style as William7 himself.

Speaking of which, there is a very definite style that runs through all these records: the compiler in almost all cases where he knows anything at all about a person, provides us with: a birth year; a death year; and an age in years at death—suggesting that the sources of most of this information (for all but the children and grandchildren of William7) was mostly gravestone inscriptions—not vital or church records, which nearly always provide specific dates, but which only occasionally record deaths; and many of the death records published in the Massachusetts VR series are themselves derived from gravestones. However, only a few gravestones include all three of these data elements, and many provide specific dates of death and/or birth and/or specific ages at death, to the day. Many gravestones also specify, not the age at death in years, but the ordinal year of the decedent's life—not "died 6May1754, aged 65", but "died 6May1754, æ 65", where "æ" is the Latin diphthong abbreviation for *anno aetatis suae*—in the year of

his/her life". Thus, for these latter specifications, which are very common, it's necessary to subtract a year, or part of one, to come up with an approximate age in years or birth year.

It's evident from this compilation that the author obliterated all such subtleties, along with any specific dates his sources provided. It appears, in fact, that many of his ages at death were calculated, not just from a pair of known birth and death years, but from a known death year and a supposed birth year—thus producing a wholly unsubstantiated age at death in years that suggests a gravestone source that doesn't, in fact, exist.

The example I just used comes from some non-contemporaneous evidence I found for James²'s youngest son Benjamin Allen, whom the probably compiler, William⁷, characterizes thus:

**3-Benjamin (1682–1754 aged 72); m.Elizabeth CROCKER,
resided Cape Elizabeth[ME]—A.M. Yale, clergyman**

The evidence I found comes from one William Willis, evidently a genealogist member of NEHGS who submitted information on Benjamin sometime in the years, and even decades before it was published in the Apr1852 edition of the NEHGR. This entry by Willis reads:

ALLEN, Rev. Benjamin, was born in Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, grad Y[ale] C[ollege] 1708, settled in S. Bridgewater, Ms. 1708; installed in the 2nd Parish of Falmouth, M[ain]e, now Cape Elizabeth, 10Nov1734, d. 6May1754 ae 65. He had several daughters but no sons.

The specific detail here suggests that Willis was well acquainted with his subject, at least as a researcher, and he, or his source, would have had access to the Rev. Benjamin's gravestone when it was still fresh and fully readable. And to back these claims up, Banks, History of MV, 2:66, reproduces a 25Jun1754 obituary in the Boston Gazette that "he died Monday, the 6th of May last, in the 65th year of his age", after tracing his career in detail back through Yale to Tisbury. The Banks account notes that one of his Yale professors, the Rev. Jonathan Russell, was the father of Rebecca Russell who married Benjamin's oldest brother Ebenezer 14Apr1698 in Barnstable, PlymouthCo (just north of MV on Cape Cod), and BarnstableMA VRs have an entry of that date for the marriage of Mr. Ebenezer Allen [of Chilmark] & Mrs. Rebecca Russel. If Jo If true, this would differentiate would link the Rev. Benjamin Allen who died at Cape Elizabeth, ME, back to the Benjamin who married Rebecca Russell in Barnstable

Since Benjamin was This is therefore, likely to be the best source for Benjamin's death information, and even deserves some credibility as an identification of him as an ALLEN of Martha's Vineyard, and, given his implied birth date (btw 6May1689-6May1690) that he was a son of James², who was apparently the only child-producing ALLEN settled on MV before 1700.

William⁷'s construction of James²'s sequence of sons runs from Ebenezer, the first, in 1671 (for which there is some evidence), then to James (William⁷'s ancestor) in 1674, and the remaining sons are stipulated at two year intervals—the default assumption for birth years of a known sequence of children in the era before effective birth control.

Following this scheme produces a birth year for Benjamin of 1782, which would make him pretty old for a Yale graduate in 1708—though a birth date of 1690 would make him rather young. A birth date for Benjamin of 1690 also stretches the child-bearing period of his mother Elizabeth (from 1663-1690) to an implausible 27 years, although the entry in Torrey's Marriages for James² & Elizabeth PARTRIDGE say that she was born in 1644, so in 1690 she would have been about 47. If we say instead that Benjamin was born in the second half of 1689, we can probably just fit him into James²'s family, and 1689 is the year date that Banks has for him. Meanwhile, though, William⁷'s version says that Benjamin was aged 72 when he died—evidently just a calculation based on his known death year minus his supposed (but probably erroneous) birth year, and his specification of a death age of 72 creates a misleading impression that the age was derived from a gravestone.

To take another example from the Ancestral section of the William Allen Bible Record, all the birth dates of the children of James²'s oldest son, Ebenezer, appear to have been recorded in the ChilmarkMA vital records, yielding a satisfyingly complete conjugal family for him, but the Bible Record has only a few year dates for these children, half of which are wrong, and otherwise is both missing children from the vital records and includes children (Sarah, Hannah) that are not there.

These examples rather discredits the Ancestral portion of William⁷'s bible record compilation, but I provide it here for James²'s family anyways, because others may have relied on it:

(from: *NEHGRegister* 83(Oct1929):507-508)

2-James, m. Elizabeth PERKINS

- 3-Mary (1664 Sandwich[MA] -); m. _?_ LAISDALL
- 3-Abigail (1669 Sandwich[MA] -); m. _?_ SEABURY
- 3-Ruth (1669 Sandwich[MA] -); m. _?_ BANGS
- 3-Sarah (1669 Sandwich[NA] -); m. _?_ LUCE
- 3-Ebenezer (1671-1733 aged 62)-magistrate, Esq.
- 3-James (1674-1724 aged 50); m.Mary BOURN; resided Chilmark
- 3-Ichabod (1676-1755 aged 79); m1.Elizabeth ALLEN; m2.Elizabeth CLIFFORD; farmer
- 3-Samuel (1678-1755 aged 77); m.Mary TILTON; resided Chilmark; farmer
- 3-John (1680-1764 aged 84); m.Margaret HOMES, resided Chilmark; trader, Major
- 3-Joseph (1680-1728 aged 48); m.Patience BOURN, resided Tisbury; farmer
- 3-Benjamin (1682-1754 aged 72); m.Elizabeth CROCKER,
resided Cape Elizabeth[ME]; A.M. Yale, clergyman
- 3-Moses (-1722); resided Chilmark-"a good young man"

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Many of the sources listed below I've accessed via the online New England Historical and Genealogical Society's [American Ancestors](#) (AA) database, and I've heavily relied on the AA index in searching for records to validate, qualify, or disconfirm what has been published in the following secondary sources. One glaring and important hole in the NEHGS-AA database is the absence of probate records for Dukes County, Massachusetts (Martha's Vineyard).

Many of the links below, and scattered throughout this report, are to pages in the AA database, while links to the first two volumes of Banks's History of Martha's Vineyard are to the digitized books at [Internet Archives](#).

Published New England Vital Records Abstracts

- BRC28** [*Twenty-Eighth Report of the Record Commissioners: Boston Marriages, 1700-1751*](#) (1898)
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Banks-MV1

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Banks-MV2

Charles Edward Banks, *The History of Martha's Vineyard, Dukes County, Massachusetts, in Three Volumes [Volume2—Town Annals](#)* (Boston, 1911)

Separate pagination for each town: Edgartown, [West Tisbury](#), [Chilmark](#), [Tisbury](#), etc.
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