

NOTES ON THE
ANCESTORS AND IMMEDIATE DESCENDANTS
OF ETHAN AND IRA ALLEN

With Additional Notes on the Ancestry of
Reverend Thomas Allen, Known as
"Fighting Parson Allen".

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PREFATORY NOTE

In all the history of Vermont the most romantic character is Ethan Allen, "Old Ethan of Fort Ti". Vermont has had in its citizenry abler and better men, if we are to measure by any standards acceptable to reasonable men. It is impossible to read what he wrote about himself, or about events in which he participated, without reaching the conclusion that Ethan Allen rated highly his own talents and achievements as a statesman, a military leader and a writer. The truth is that, among his contemporaries, to say nothing of the succeeding generations, there were wiser and abler statesmen, and more competent military leaders than Ethan Allen. Both Thomas Chittenden and Nathaniel Chipman were his superiors in statecraft and political leadership. Seth Warner, certainly, and perhaps Samuel Herrick also, were superior to him as military leaders. And while Allen was unquestionably the outstanding literary protagonist of the Vermonters in their long struggle against the claims of New York, he was inferior to several others in literary craftsmanship. Both Stephen Rowe Bradley and Daniel Chipman excelled him in that.

And there were many men of his day, as well as of succeeding generations, whose characters were more admirable and less open to serious criticism and censure than was the character of Ethan Allen. All this, and more, can be said with perfect justness and truth, and yet there can be no denying that he holds a place of unchallenged and unapproached preeminence in the history of Vermont and in popular esteem. He is the legendary hero of the Green Mountain State. The exploits and romantic daring of Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys will, we may be sure, continue to be the subject of interest and admiration as long as the English language exists as the vernacular of any land or state.

The youngest brother of Ethan Allen, Ira, has been called "The Founder of Vermont", by his biographer, James B. Wilbur. The title is an unfortunate one in that it claims far too much for Ira Allen, far more than can be established by evidence, and deprives other men of no less merit of their just share of credit for their

part in the founding of Vermont. No one man can be given the credit expressed in the title, "Founder of Vermont", with any semblance of accuracy or justice.

Ira Allen contributed his share, and it was an important share, to the work of founding our sturdy little Commonwealth. While he had grave defects of character, he had virtues and talents which were of incalculable value to the movement of which he and his brother, Ethan, were part. He was able and he was resourceful as a politician. He was an aggressive and enterprising land speculator and business promoter and entrepreneur. Such men are always open to the charge of being selfish, avaricious and lacking in moral integrity. No matter how much or how little truth there may be in such accusations, the fact remains that in pioneer development of the outposts of civilization such men have rendered invaluable services dwarfing their faults and failings and leaving society their debtor. So it was with Ira Allen. Without his contribution Vermont might never have come into being, or else have been the victim of the heavy mortality of infant States born of the womb of revolution.

It is not a matter for wonder that numerous men and women much time and effort in the quest for information that will, in some manner, link them to the Allen family to which the two great Vermont leaders belong. Each year, at the Bennington Historical Museum and Art Gallery, we receive numerous inquiries by mail or from visitors concerning the ancestors or descendants of Ethan and Ira Allen, especially of the older brother. In almost every instance our questioners are hoping to be able to establish some genealogical connection between themselves and the two Vermont patriots.

The object of this small publication is a simple and unpretentious one. The best service that we can give our friends is to place in their hands, in a convenient form, all the pertinent information that we have. That is our sole aim. These Notes do not purport to be a complete genealogy of the family of the famous hero of Ticonderoga and his less famous brother, Ira. I have un-

dertaken to do no more than set forth, as simply as possible, what we know of the origin and ancestry of the most famous Allens in our history, Ethan and Ira, as well as of their immediate descendants.

It is my belief that most, if not all, of those who wish to prove whether or not they are of the kindred of Ethan and Ira Allen will find their task much lightened by this concise compilation. More than that should not be expected.

I

SAMUEL ALLEN is the first American ancestor of Ethan and Ira Allen. From the ancient town of Braintree, in the County of Essex, England, in the year 1632, there set forth on a voyage to the New World a party of emigrants. This was the original Braintree Company, and it came with the Dorchester Company. In the company were three brothers, sons of Samuel Allen, of Chelmsford, in Essex. The three were Samuel Allen, who is believed to have been born in Chelmsford in 1588 or 1589. In that case he would have been forty-three or forty-four years old when he came to America.

With him came two younger brothers, *Matthew*, who was born in 1603 or early in 1604, the Chelmsford Records giving the date of his baptism as April, 1604, and *Thomas*, who was born in November, 1604, the baptismal record being dated November the twenty-second. There was another brother, *Richard*, who did not come to America. There may have been other brothers and sisters but if so the fact is not known.

For some unknown reason the brothers Thomas and Matthew adopted a different spelling of their surname. Their father, in Chelmsford, had been known as "Samuel Allen" and that spelling of the surname had been used by them up to the time of their settlement in America. Samuel never spelled his name in any other way. When the three brothers were living in Connecticut, not far apart, one was known as "Allen" and the other two as "Allyn". This has resulted in very much confusion, and has been the cause of much distress to genealogists.

The three brothers came to Charlestown in 1632. Matthew had the largest acreage of all the settlers granted to him in 1633 in Charlestown at "the Common Pales". By 1635 he owned lands in a number of places. He resided near the Meeting House in Cambridge and was the largest landholder in that town. He was a made freeman of Massachusetts on the fourth of March that year, and in 1636 was a representative in the Massachusetts General Court, at the March session. In much of his enterprise he was associated with his brother, Thomas, and it is probable that much of the property that was in the name of Matthew was in reality jointly owned.

Early in 1636 probably, but possibly in December, 1635, Matthew and Thomas removed to Hartford, Connecticut, where they were original proprietors. Matthew lodged with Roger Williams in Hartford in 1638. He owned the first mill in Hartford and was a member of the Reverend Mr. Hooker's church. As an outgrowth of a dispute over some matter of doctrine, he was excommunicated, and on June 3, 1644, appealed to the General Court for vindication and redress. It may have been his troubles with the church that led to his removal from Hartford to Windsor, where in 1638 he purchased an extensive property, described as "lands, houses, servants, goods and chattels" of the New Plymouth Company in Windsor.

II

MATTHEW ALLYN was one of the wealthiest men in the Colony of Connecticut and was prominent in public affairs. For some ten years he was a member of the General Court, and he was a magistrate of the Colony for the period 1657-1667, inclusive. He held many important offices and few men equalled him in influence or in the number and importance of public offices held. That he was highly respected is evident from the list of offices held by him. But he was wilful, aggressive, disputatious and contentious. He was involved in disputes in religious matters over a period of years and he was frequently involved in

litigation. In 1650 he was defendant in several suits brought by his brother, Thomas, over a number of contracts and bonds. Judgment was rendered in favor of Thomas.

MATTHEW ALLYN died February 1, 1670-1671. He left his widow and three children, John, Thomas and Mary. His wife's name was *Margaret*, her maiden surname unknown. According to Stiles' *Ancient Windsor*, the marriage of Matthew and Margaret and the births of the three children probably took place in England.

1. JOHN, oldest son of Matthew and Margaret, married first *Anna Smith*, of Springfield, who was a granddaughter of William Pyncheon. They had six children: Anna, b. August 18, 1654; Mary, b. April 3, 1657; Margaret, b. July 29, 1660 (she married William Southmayd, of Middletown, Connecticut); Rebecca, b. March 2, 1664; Martha, b. 27, 1667 (she married Aaron Cook); Elizabeth, b. December 1, 1669, (married, first, Alexander Allyn, a widower, and, second, John Gardiner).

John Allyn married, as his second wife, some time after 1675, *Hannah Welles*, widow of Samuel Welles, of Hartford. There were no children by this marriage. According to the Town Records of Hartford, he died November 11, 1696, but the date on the tombstone in Old First Church Burying Ground is November 6, 1696.

THOMAS ALLYN, son of Samuel, went to Windsor at the same time as his brothers, Matthew (Allyn) and Samuel (Allen). He was twice married. His first wife was *Isabella* her maiden surname unknown. She died about 1678; the second wife was *Martha Gipson* (or Gibson), widow of Roger Gipson, the marriage taking place in 1680 or 1681. About 1650 Thomas Allyn moved from Windsor to Middletown, where he became one of the most influential citizens. He was Deacon of the First Church, and was elected to various offices, including Selectman and Representative to the General Court. He died at Middletown, October 16, 1688, his will being dated the day before his death.

His widow, Martha, died at Middletown, November, 1702. Having no children of his own, Thomas Allyn adopted his nephew, *Obediah* Allen, fourth son of his deceased brother, Samuel Allen, of Windsor. This Obediah spent the remainder of his minority in the family of his uncle and guardian, and inherited a large share of the latter's estate.

SAMUEL ALLEN, as we have already noted, came to this country from Braintree, in Essex, England, in 1632, with his two brothers, Matthew and Thomas. They settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where they remained for some time. All three were men of substance and large property holders. At the end of 1635 or the beginning of 1636 they all moved to Hartford, Connecticut. In 1633, about a year after his arrival from England, Samuel had married. Neither the date of the marriage nor the maiden surname of the bride has been found, so far as the writer of these notes can discover. Her baptismal name was *Anna*. A son was born to them in 1634, and they named him *Samuel*, after his father and his paternal grandfather.

SAMUEL and his family did not stay in Hartford very long. They removed to Windsor, probably in 1638. This writer is quite well aware that the statement is made that Samuel was in Windsor as early as 1635-36, but he has found no actual evidence of the family being in Windsor until 1638, when the brother, Matthew Allyn, purchased the extensive property of the New Plymouth Company in Windsor already referred to above. In the town records of Windsor there is recorded the grant of a lot of land to Samuel Allen in 1640. It is also recorded that his house was "drowned very deep" on March 18, 1639. This doubtless refers to an inundation by a Spring freshet or flood. Possibly the lot granted in 1640 was for building a new home on a higher and safer location.

SAMUEL ALLEN was a farmer, and a man of substance and good repute. He was a juryman in Windsor in 1644. From the land records of Windsor and the inventory of his estate, dated September 8, 1648, we learn that he was well-to-do, as the useful

descriptive term goes. The inventory value of his estate was 76 pounds, 18 shillings and 8 pence -- a considerable sum in those days. Samuel Allen died at his home in Windsor and was buried April 28, 1648. He left a widow and six children, the oldest being Samuel, aged fourteen. The widow, *Anna*, subsequently moved to Northampton, Massachusetts, and there married *William Hurlbut*. She died in Northampton, November 13, 1687.

(In the old Church Records of Windsor, Connecticut, it is recorded that "Old Mrs. Allyn" was admitted to Windsor church, August 5, 1649. In the same record book appears the record of the death of "Ould Mr. Allyn", September 12, 1675. Stiles in his *Ancient Windsor*, Vol. II, page 29, suggests that these "probably" were the mother and father, respectively, of the three brothers, Samuel, Matthew and Thomas. The writer of these *Notes* calls attention to these only because it suggests the possibility of fruitful result from further investigation.)

III

The six children born to Samuel and Anna Allen were:

1. SAMUEL, born 1634. He married Hannah, daughter of Thomas and Mary *Blott* Woodford, November 29, 1659. He received a grant of land from Northampton in 1657. He died in Northampton on October 18, 1718---1719.

2. NEHEMIAH, date of birth unknown, but supposed born in Hartford. Married in 1664, Sarah Woodford, daughter of Thomas and Mary *Blott* Woodward, sister of his brother Samuel's wife. *He was the direct ancestor of Ethan and Ira Allen*. He was a prosperous man and left an estate of 420 pounds 8 shillings.

3. JOHN, who married, December 8, 1669, Mary, daughter of William and Honor Hannum. She was born April 5, 1650. He was killed at Bloody Creek, Deerfield, Massachusetts, by Indians, September 18, 1675. They had three children -- John, born September 30, 1670; Samuel, born February 5, 1673; Hannah, born in Northampton, May,

1675, baptized June 20, 1675.

4. REBECCA and 5, MARY, both died in 1648, according to the Old Church Records of Windsor. Their births and ages are not recorded.

6. OBEDIAH, the sixth child and fourth son of Samuel, was adopted by his uncle, Thomas Allyn, soon after his father's death in 1648, and went to Middletown to live. He married, October 23, 1669, Elizabeth Sanford, of Milford, Connecticut. She died and he married a second time, his second wife being Mary *Savage* Whetmore, widow of John Whetmore and daughter of John Savage. After the death of his uncle in 1688, he inherited most of the latter's estate. He was prominent in the Church at Middletown, having been admitted by certificate from the church at Windsor, May 2, 1669, after having "owned the covenant" at Middletown, November 9, 1668. He was elected Deacon May 31, 1704. He died at Middletown, April 7, 1723, without issue.

IV

NEHEMIAH ALLEN was born in Hartford, probably. He married, on September 21, 1664, Sarah Woodford, daughter of Thomas and Mary *Blott* Woodward two days after her fifteenth birthday. She was born in Hartford, Connecticut, September 2, 1649. Nehemiah died in Northampton in 1684. Sarah, his wife, survived him and married twice after his death. Her second husband was *Richard Burk*, whom she married in Northampton, September 1, 1687. Her third husband was *Judab Wright*, whom she married in Northampton, July 11, 1706. She died in Northampton, March 31, 1712--1713.

Following his marriage to Sarah Woodford, Nehemiah Allen settled in Salisbury, Connecticut. They had nine children altogether, one of these being Samuel, grandfather of Ethan and Ira Allen.

SAMUEL ALLEN, son of *Nehemiah*, was born in Northampton,

Massachusetts, January 3, 1666. He married *Mercy Wright*, daughter of Samuel and *Elizabeth Burt Wright*, who was born in Northampton, March 14, 1669, three years younger than her husband. They lived at Deerfield, Massachusetts, from 1705 to 1713, when they removed to Coventry, Connecticut. He died October 14, 1718, leaving a substantial estate. Widow *Mercy Allen* died in Litchfield, Connecticut, February 5, 1728, at the home of her son, *Joseph*, who, in the settlement of her estate purchased one third of her real estate. Altogether Samuel and Mercy Wright Allen had nine children, one of them being *Joseph*, the father of Ethan and Ira Allen.

JOSEPH ALLEN, son of Samuel and Mercy Wright Allen, was born in Deerfield, Massachusetts, October 14, 1708. On March 11, 1737 -- 38, he married *Mary Baker* at Woodbury, Connecticut. In 1713 he had moved with his parents from Deerfield to Coventry. After the death of his father in 1718, Joseph moved to Litchfield, where he had purchased a home for himself and his widowed mother, who made her home with him until her death in 1728.

MARY BAKER was the daughter of *John Baker* and sister of Remember Baker, father of the famous scout and Revolutionary patriot, also named Remember. Thus Remember Baker who was so often associated with Ethan and Ira Allen in Vermont was their first cousin. Joseph Allen was a farmer, industrious and of good repute. He dealt in farm lands in a modest way, just as many other ambitious men of the region were doing at that time. He amassed no amount of wealth worth mentioning, but he always maintained his family in modest comfort and he was well esteemed by his neighbors.

Soon after his marriage to Mary Baker, Joseph and his young wife moved to a farm some little distance from the town of Litchfield. There the first of their eight children was born on the morning of January 10, 1737, Old Style, 1738, New Style. They called the child Ethan, which was an old family name. Shortly after the child's birth the family moved again, to a farm

on the outskirts of Cornwall, on the west bank of the Housatonic river. There the other seven children were born, in the following order: Heman, born October 14, 1740; Lydia, born in 1742; Heber, born in 1743, died 1782; Levi, born in 1746, died 1801; Lucy, born April, 1747--1748; Zimri, born December 1748, died in March, 1776; Ira, born April 21, 1751, Old Style, May 1, New Style, died January 7, 1814.

V

ETHAN ALLEN, born January 10, 1738, New Style, in Litchfield, Connecticut, married (1st) June 23, 1762, at Woodbury, Connecticut, *Mary Brownson*, daughter of Richard Brownson, miller. The marriage was performed by Reverend Richard Daniel Brinsmade, of Judea Parish, Ethan paying him a fee of four shillings. Mary Brownson was born in Woodbury, 1732, and was six years older than Ethan. She died in Sunderland, Vermont, 1783, and was buried in Arlington in the cemetery, not far from the walls of St. James' Protestant Episcopal Church.

Ethan married (2nd) February 9, 1784, at Westminster, Vermont, *Frances* (otherwise *Fanny*) *Buchanan*, widow of a British officer. She was the daughter of Captain Montessor, a French officer in the British army, as was born April 4, 1760. She was 24 years old at the time of her marriage to Ethan Allen, while he was 46. Ethan died in Burlington, February 12, 1789. His wife, Fanny, survived him and married for her third husband, Dr. Jabez Peniman. She was little more than 29 when Ethan, her second husband, died.

Children born of the first marriage were one son and four daughters. They were: *Loraine*, born April, 1763, Cornwall, Connecticut, Mrs. Allen going there for her confinement to have the care of her mother-in-law; *Joseph*, born November, 1765, in Salisbury, Connecticut, at the home of Heman Allen; *Lucy Caroline*, born January 15, 1768; *Mary Ann*, born 177---; *Pamela*, born at Arlington, May 29, 1779.

1. LORAINÉ never married. Died Arlington, Vermont,

in her 20th year.

2. JOSEPH died in May, 1777, at the home of his uncle Heman, aged 11 years.

3. LUCY CAROLINE married Samuel Hitchcock, May 26, 1789. He was born March 23, 1755; died November 30, 1850. They had children, as follows: Loraine Allen, born at Burlington, June 5, 1790. She married *George P. Peters*, June 4, 1814; died March 22, 1815; Henry, born in Burlington, September 11, 1792; died August 11, 1839; Samuel, born in Vergennes, November 12, 1794, died August 29, 1806; Mary Ann, born at Vergennes, June 3, 1796; Joseph Ethan Allen, born at Vergennes, May 18, 1798; Heman Allen, born at Vergennes, October 16, 1800; Pamela Caroline, born at Vergennes, May 20, 1805; Samuel, born May 2, 1808. A note under the entry of his birth in the handwriting of *Pamela Allen Keyes* reads: "Called Samuel in remembrance of their deceased son, Samuel, whose fortitude, patience and unexampled good conduct never ought to be forgotten".

4. MARY ANN, born about 1775. She never married and lived with her father and stepmother. She survived her father two years.

5. PAMELA, born at Arlington, Vermont, May 29, 1779, married *Eleazer W. Keyes*, April 14, 1803. He was from Pomfret, Vermont, and was born September 26, 1776. She died on December 8, 1809. Two sons were born of this union: Chester Amasa was born October 26, 1805; Allen was born September 6, 1807.

Children of Ethan Allen by his second wife were one daughter and two sons, his sixth, seventh and eighth children, respectively. They were:

6. FRANCES MARGARET (called "Fanny"), was born at Sunderland, Vermont, November 13, 1784. She never married. She died in Montreal, Canada, December 10, 1819, of tuberculosis of the lungs. She was noted for her personal beauty and charm and her high intelligence. Quite early she

manifested a deep interest in religious matters and was undoubtedly something of a mystic. Engaged, and apparently sincerely in love, she nevertheless entered a convent, took the vows of a Religious and became a nun. Much has been written about her, including a volume by Sister Helen Morrissey, of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph, the Order to which Fanny Allen belonged.

7. ETHAN ALLEN (or Ethan Voltaire), born at Sunderland, Vermont, February 3, 1786. A record in Ethan Allen's handwriting, in a well-known copy of his book, *Oracle of Reason*, gives the name of this child as "Ethan Voltaire". After his father's death, and probably at the time of his mother's marriage to Dr. Jabez Penniman, the "Voltaire" was changed to "Allen", for obvious reasons. Ethan Allen Allen served in the War of 1812 and was a graduate of West Point. He was a Captain in the U. S. A. when he retired. He died on January 6, 1855. He had a son named after himself, Ethan Allen Allen, II, of New York City.

8. HANNIBAL MONTRESSOR was born November 24, 1787, at Burlington, Vermont. He became a professional soldier, like his brother. He died in Norfolk, Virginia, and his widow shortly after his death moved to Michigan, where she lived many years, dying at an advanced age.

HEMAN ALLEN, second son of Joseph and Mary Baker Allen, was born at Cornwall, Connecticut, October 14, 1740. He kept a general store in Salisbury for many years and was in some respects the most dependable member of the family. When his mother was stricken with paralysis in Goshen, in 1770, she was moved to Heman's home in Salisbury, where she spent the remaining years of her life. His home was the refuge of the entire family in their times of stress and need.

His wife was ABIGAIL, who survived him and made a second marriage. Heman died at his home in Salisbury, May 18, 1778. It was said at the time that he never recovered from a cold caught during the Battle of Bennington, in which he served as

a captain. Although his legal residence was always in Connecticut, so far as can be ascertained, he made extensive journeys in Vermont and some prolonged visits. He acquired a considerable amount of property in Vermont and took an active and prominent part in its political affairs. He served as a member of some of the early conventions, representing Rutland at one time and Colchester at another.

Heman and Abigail had one child, a daughter, *Lucinda*, who inherited most of her father's estate. She married *Moses Catlin*, of Litchfield, who was born 1770. They settled in Burlington, Vermont, and spent the rest of their lives there. Moses Catlin died in 1842, aged 72 years. They had no children of their own but adopted at different times three orphan children, all of whom died in childhood.

Abigail did not long remain a widow. She married a man named *Wadhams* and lived in Goshen, Connecticut. A daughter born of this marriage, *Melinda Wadhams*, married *Guy Catlin*. He was the youngest brother of Moses Catlin, and was born in 1782. His brother's wife was half sister to his own wife. He died in 1853 at the age of 72 years. Melinda was born in 1798 and died in 1843 at the age of 45 years.

LYDIA ALLEN, third child of Joseph and Mary Baker Allen, was born in Cornwall, in 1742. She married *John Finch* and lived in Goshen. One son was born of the marriage, *John Allen Finch*. She died young, in 1770. The son, John A Finch, married, but died without issue prior to 1800. At a boarding house kept by his widow in Philadelphia Ira Allen, her husband's uncle, spent the closing year of his life.

HEBER ALLEN, third son and fourth child of Joseph and Mary Allen, was born at Cornwall, October 4, 1743. He married and lived at Woodbury until 1770. With his wife and their son, Heber, he settled in Poultney in 1771 and spent the rest of his short life there. He was the first Town Clerk of Poultney. He held the rank of major in the Revolution and was at Ticonderoga with his company when that fort was evacuated by orders of

General St. Clair, July 6, 1777. He died of pulmonary tuberculosis, April 10, 1782, aged 38 years, leaving his widow and five children:

1. HEBER, born in Woodbury, 1763. Taught school in Georgia, Vermont. Then migrated West and did not again appear in Vermont.
2. SARAH, born 1771. She married Captain Reuben Evarts in 1787.
3. LUCY, born 1773.
4. JOSEPH, born 1774. He entered the business of his uncle, Levi Allen, but was not successful.
5. HEMAN, born 1779. Was adopted by his uncle, Ira. Graduated from Dartmouth College, 1795. A lawyer, he did not at first practice his profession but managed his uncle's business affairs. Was Member of Congress, 1817, but resigned to accept office of United States Marshal for District of Vermont. He was appointed Minister to Chili, in 1828. To distinguish him from another Heber Allen who was active in Vermont affairs at the same time, he was known as "Chili Allen". He died in Highgate, Vermont, April 9, 1852, aged seventy-three.

Mrs. Allen, widow of Heber, soon after her husband's death, went to Sunderland with her three children, Lucy, Joseph and Heman. She kept house for her brother-in-law, Ira, in return for which he provided for her and her children. In 1785 she and the children moved to Colchester, to Ira's new house, Ira being a bachelor. She died rather suddenly in 1787, and it may have been the situation created by her death that caused Ira Allen to marry *Jerusha Enos*, some two years later.

LEVI ALLEN, fourth son and fifth child of Joseph and Mary Allen, was born in Cornwall, January 16, 1745, Old Style, 1746, New Style. He had the reputation of being an obstinate and wayward lad. As soon as he was old enough he joined his brothers in their speculations in Vermont lands, but he did not come to

Vermont to reside. There was a strain of eccentricity in his character.

At the outbreak of the Revolution Levi appears to have shared the faith of his older brothers in the cause of independence. He shared in the daring capture of Ticonderoga, and he was with Seth Warner and Peleg Sunderland in the no less daring seizure of Crown Point. He was named by Ethan to be adjutant of his regiment of Green Mountain Boys which he was to raise for the Continental Army. When his brother, Ethan, was made a prisoner by the British Levi was unremitting in his efforts to bring about the release of the prisoner. That he had relations with the British during the war that were highly questionable and inconsistent with complete loyalty to the Revolutionary cause cannot be denied. The evidence is incontestable. It may, however, be fairly doubted whether Levi was in fact guilty of anything worse than some of the things Ethan did -- some phases of the Haldimand negotiations, for example.

However, Ethan publicly denounced his younger brother as a "damned tory" and caused his lands to be seized by the Commissioner of Sequestration and confiscated. There is some reason that Ethan did this less from patriotism than from a desire to annoy Levi and cause him trouble in retaliation for Levi's refusal to part with his interest in certain property which Ethan coveted. Levi came to Vermont to defend himself against the threatened confiscation of his property and when he arrived found that there was no one to arrest him or to prosecute the suit for confiscation. Ethan kept in the background. Levi went to England to live and declared that he would never return to America. But he did return, and was associated with Ethan and Ira in business. Obviously the old quarrel had been forgotten. As a matter of fact, in retrospect it has all the appearance of a farcical pretense. But the reputation of Levi Allen has suffered at the hands of prejudiced and biased historians.

Levi Allen died in Burlington in 1801. He was in prison for debt at the time of his death and was buried in the prison yard, in

an unmarked grave. Under the law as it then was, anyone who laid claim to the body would have to assume responsibility for the debt for which the deceased was imprisoned. None of his relatives was willing to do that. Levi was married. He had a daughter and possibly other issue.

LUCY ALLEN, sixth child and second daughter of Joseph and Mary Allen, was born in Cornwall, Connecticut, April 2, 1747--1748. She married Dr. Beebee, of Sheffield, Massachusetts.

ZIMRI ALLEN was born in Cornwall, Connecticut, December 14, 1748. He died at Sheffield, Massachusetts, in March, 1776, without issue.

IRA ALLEN, the youngest of the eight children of Joseph and Mary Allen, was born in Cornwall, Connecticut, May 1, 1751, New Style, died in Philadelphia, January 7, 1814, in his sixty-third year. He married *Jerusha*, daughter of General Roger Enos, September 13, 1789. They had three children:

1. IRA HAYDEN ALLEN--Hayden was the name of Jerusha Enos Allen's mother -- was born in Colchester, February 16, 1790. He married (1st) *Sarah C. T. Parsons*, of Highgate, July 13, 1842. She died February 29, 1844. On July 8, 1848, he married (2nd) Frances Eliza Parsons, sister of his deceased first wife. He died in Irasburg, Vermont, April 29, 1866, at the age of seventy-six. He was the town's leading benefactor and most influential citizen. He was held in high esteem. His children were: Charles P., Sarah M. and Mary F. Allen.

2. ZIMRI, the second child of Ira and Jerusha Allen, was born in Colchester, February 2, 1792. He died there on August twenty-second, 1813, aged twenty-one, without issue.

3. MARIA JULIETTE, the third child, was born in Colchester in 1794 and died in St. Albans, Vermont, where she was attending school, in July, 1811. She was seventeen years old when she died, unmarried.

From the foregoing data it should be possible for most persons who think that they are descendants of Ethan or Ira Allen to determine whether or not that belief is founded on fact. Because

the famous Parson Allen, of Bennington Battle fame, was a cousin of Ethan and Ira, a brief summary of his branch of the Allen family is given below.

VI

FAMILY OF REVEREND THOMAS ALLEN

"Fighting Parson Allen"

1. SAMUEL (1) and ANN Allen of Windson, Connecticut.
2. SAMUEL (2) their son, and brother of *Nehemiah*, the direct ancestor of *Ethan* and *Ira* Allen. Samuel's wife was *Hannah* Woodford.
3. SAMUEL (3) son of the foregoing Samuel (2) and Hannah, born in Northampton, Massachusetts, July 6, 1675; married in 1699 *Sarah Rust*, daughter of Israel Rust. She was born May 29, 1675.
4. JOSEPH, son of Samuel and Sarah (Rust) Allen, born in Northampton, April 5, 1712; married *Elizabeth Parsons*, daughter of *Noah* and *Minwell* (or *Mindwell*) *Parsons*. She was born in Northampton, March 25, 1716; died in Northampton, January 9, 1800. Joseph died in Northampton, January 30, 1779.
5. THOMAS (Parson Allen), son of Joseph and Elizabeth Parsons Allen, was born in Northampton, January 17, 1743; married, February 18, 1768, *Elizabeth Lee*. She was the daughter of Reverend Jonathan and Elizabeth (*Metcalf*) *Lee*. She was born September 4, 1747; died in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, March 31, 1830. Thomas Allen was a graduate of Harvard College, Class of 1762. He was ordained April 18, 1764 and was the first settled minister in Pittsfield. He took part in the Battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777. He died in Pittsfield, February 10, 1810. Among the children of Reverend Thomas and Elizabeth Lee Allen was a son, William, who also became a minister.
6. WILLIAM, (Reverend William Allen), son of Reverend Thomas and Elizabeth Lee Allen, was born in Pittsfield, January 2, 1784. He married (1st) January 2, 1813,

Maria Mallaville Wheelock, only daughter of John and Maria (*Subn*) Wheelock. She was born February 3, 1788; died in Brunswick, Maine, June 3, 1828. He married (2nd) December 2, 1831, *Sarah Johnson Breed*, daughter of John McLaren and Rebecca (Walker) Breed. She was born January 11, 1789. Reverend William Allen was the compiler and editor of the *American Biographical Dictionary*. He died in Northampton, Massachusetts, July 16, 1868. He had eight children.

VII

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF JOSEPH ALLEN

SAMUEL ALLEN and MERCY (Wright) Allen had nine children, the eighth being *Joseph*, the father of Ethan and Ira. The full list of the children of Samuel and Mercy follows:

1. NEHEMIAH was born September 23, 1693. He died in infancy.
2. MERCY was born June 25, 1695.
3. NEHEMIAH (second of the name) was born September 19, 1697.
4. MARY was born October 22, 1699. She married *Benjamin Smalley*, of Lebanon.
5. DANIEL was born November 1, 1701.
6. HESTER was born February 26, 1704. She died December 18, 1707.
7. LYDIA was born May 15, 1706. She married *Selah Murray*, of Guilford.
8. JOSEPH was born October 14, 1708, in Deerfield, Massachusetts. He was the father of Ethan and Ira.
9. EBENEZER was born April 26, 1711.

NOTES No portrait of Ethan Allen is now known to exist. The various statues and pictures purporting to be portrayals of him are all the products of imagination; not one of them has any basis other than the imagination of the artist.