

## OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

**Title:** Allen Family Papers Collection

**Collection Date(s):** 1817 - 1980

**Extent and Forms of Material:** 9 boxes

**Creator:** Allen Family

**Biographical or Historical Sketch:** Cyrus McCracken Allen was born in Clark County, Kentucky, April 22, 1815, son of Thomas Allen, one of the early and highly-respected pioneers of Indiana. Cyrus M. Allen followed mercantile pursuits a few years after attaining his majority, but soon dropped that and began the study of law, with the view to making it a profession, reading in Winchester, and later attending a course of lectures in the law department of the Old Transylvania University of Lexington, Kentucky. He married Mary Lander and in 1840 moved to Indiana and embarked in his profession at Paoli, Indiana, but the following year relocated at Petersburg, where he practiced law four years. He moved to Vincennes in 1844, where his legal ability soon placed him in the front rank of his profession. He took an active part in the political affairs of the county, and in 1859 was elected to the State Legislature by the Whig Party and here his legislative ability was as marked as his knowledge of the law, gaining him a state reputation. Later he resumed the practice of law, and also was engaged as contractor and assisted in the construction of the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad (eastern division); he also built part of the Indianapolis & Vincennes Railroad, and also Cairo & Vincennes and Illinois River Railroads. He was a great admirer of Lincoln, and was one of the first to present his name for the nomination to the presidency. In 1860 he was elected by the Republication Party to the State Legislature, serving as speaker. In 1863 he was candidate for Congress against W. E. Niblack, but was defeated. He then retired from public life, and devoted his attention to legal pursuits until he was disabled by disease and was compelled to retire from active work. He died on November 2, 1883. His first wife died and he took for his second wife her sister, Sallie Lander.

(Source: History of Knox and Daviess Counties Indiana. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886) pp. 306-307.

His son, C. M. Allen, Jr. was born to the first wife. C.M. Allen, Jr. graduated from West Point and served in the military at various frontier posts including Fort Riley and Fort Laramie.

Papers/items from C.M. Allen descendants: Anne Eastman Allen (Mrs. C.M. Allen, Jr.); Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) and Ann Allen Johnson (Renick).

Correspondence from Cyrus M. Allen (1815-1883) family, Vincennes. Allen was born to an early pioneer family who moved to Indiana in 1840. He was elected as a Representative to the Indiana General Assembly in 1861. Defeated in his bid for Congress two years later. Collection contains correspondence between Allen and his wife, Mary. Many of her letters were sent undated but give a fairly accurate picture of Vincennes in the mid-1800s.

**Repository:** Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN. Please address questions to [rking@vinu.edu](mailto:rking@vinu.edu) 812-888-4330 <http://www.vinu.edu/lewis-historical-library>

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**Collection Number:** RHC #5

**Processing Note:** Processed by Dr. Patricia Owens, volunteer, April – May 2015; supervised by Abigail Creitz, Technical Services Librarian. Supervised by Richard King, Reference Librarian.

## INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

**Conditions Governing Access:** The collection is open for research use.

**Physical Access:** Researchers must wash hands and dry thoroughly before use. Gloves must be worn when handling photographs and negatives. Archives must remain in Lewis Historical Library.

**Technical Access:** Use copies when available.

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**Preferred Citation:** Title and date of item, Regional History Collection, Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University, box number \_.

## IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLECTION

**Administrative/Biographical History:** Variety of papers, letters, legal documents relating to the personal and business lives of the Allen Family. Civil War era letters written by C. M. Allen, Jr. as well as letters from his frontier postings. Personal letters to his finance; letters, diaries and documents from female descendants of C. M. Allen, Jr. and his wife.

**Scope and Content:** The collection includes/comprises/consists of letters, documents, receipts, legal documents, personal items belonging to the Allen Family. Dates 1810 – 1983.

**System of Arrangement:** Collection is arranged by boxes 1 – 9 with multiple folders in each box.

**Acquisition Information:** This collection was donated by I. Grant Beesley of Mahomet, Illinois. (June 1974). Orrill G. Thompson, of Cambridge, Massachusetts – estate of Ann Allen Johnson Renick. (May 1984)

**Related Archival Materials:**

**Access Points:**

**Subject/Names:** C.M. Allen; C.M. Allen, Jr.; Anne Eastman Allen; Mary Lloyd Allen Johnson; Ann Allen Johnson Renick

**Subject/Topical:** 19<sup>th</sup> century life in Vincennes, Indiana; Civil War soldier letters; letters from frontier postings; 20<sup>th</sup> century letters and diaries; passports; personal items

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**Form/Genre:** Letters, personal items, legal documents, diaries

**Container List:**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1	C.M. Allen – Vincennes Steam Mill Case, 1817-1829- assorted papers.
1	2	C. M. Allen – Vincennes Steam Mill Case, 1830-1834 – assorted papers and letters.
1	3	C.M. Allen – Vincennes Steam Mill Case, 1835-1839 – assorted papers, letters, newspaper ad for sale “Steam Mill and Distillery” (10-29-1835), deed.
1	4	C.M. Allen – Vincennes Steam Mill Case, 1840-1844 – Assorted papers and letters.
1	5	C.M. Allen – Vincennes Steam Mill Case, 1845-1878 – Assorted papers and letters, copy of S.R. 8 (2-28-1856) for the relief of Hall Neilson.
1	6	C.M. Allen correspondence, 1810-1839 – indentures, land sales, inventory (some of these documents are extremely fragile, torn and have been patched with tape).
1	7	C.M. Allen, 1840-49 – indentures, correspondence, document “Prices Current of Western Produce at New Orleans” dated 12-28-1849. (some of these documents are extremely fragile, torn and have been patched with tape).
1	8	C.M. Allen, 1850-1854 – indentures, legal papers, list of meat purchases dated 3-8-1853, certificate of land purchase, dated 5-29-1854, list of food purchases dated 8-1853.
1	9	C.M. Allen, 1855-1859 – legal papers, lists of purchases, list of bonds and stocks purchased.
1	10	C.M. Allen, January – December 1860 – list of purchases, assorted papers.
1	11	C.M. Allen, January – December 1861 – letter dated 5-9-1861 tells of a meeting with President Lincoln, photocopy of letters, assorted letters.
1	12	C.M. Allen, January – December 1862 – correspondence, legal papers including estate inventory, photocopies of letters.

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1	13	C.M. Allen, January – December 1863 – photocopies of letters, letters contain comments on Union generals and conditions in the army, the president, the enlistment of African American troops, indenture.	
1	14	C.M. Allen, January – December 1866 – legal papers, list of individuals and amounts pledged for construction of railroad from Indianapolis to Vincennes, photocopies of letters, comments on life in California.	
1	15	C.M. Allen, January – December 1867 – list of goods purchased from M. Tyler & Son, legal papers.	
1	16	C.M. Allen, January – December 1868 – legal papers, list of purchases from Cochran & Co., detailed statement of the account of C. W. Allen (5-1868 to 9 – 1871).	
1	17	C. M. Allen, January – December 1869 – legal papers and correspondence, detailed statement of the account of C. W. Allen (6-2-1869).	
1	18	C.M. Allen, January 1870 – December 1873 – legal papers and correspondence, list of purchases from Holberg & Bloch.	
1	19	C. M. Allen, 1874-1879 – letters and legal documents, lists of purchases, removal of trees (costs).	
1	20	C.M. Allen, 1880-1883 – letters and documents, list of items from Evansville Journal Company.	
1	21	C.M. Allen, 1854-1880 – Personal deeds, mortgages, indentures.	
2	1	C.M. Allen – Merrick Land Case, 1822-1834 – legal papers.	
2	2	C.M. Allen – Merrick Land Case, 1835-1839 – legal papers.	
2	3	C. M. Allen – Merrick Land Case, 1840-1849 – legal papers.	
2	4	C. M. Allen – Merrick Land Case, 1850-1854 – legal papers.	
2	5	C. M. Allen – Merrick Land Case, 1855-1857 – legal papers.	
2	6	C. M. Allen – Merrick Land Case, 1858-1867 – legal papers.	
2	7	C. M. Allen – Merrick Land Case, no dates – legal papers.	
2	8	C. M. Allen – Sloo case, 1861– legal papers.	
2	9	C. M. Allen – Levi Laycock Case papers, 1859 – legal papers.	
2	10	C. M. Allen – George R. Sullivan Estate, 1829 – legal papers.	

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2	11	C. M. Allen – Hanlon Steele vs. Murphy – legal paper.	
2	12	C. M. Allen – Calvin Clark vs. Henry Summers – legal paper.	
2	13	C. M. Allen – Timothy Graham vs. Elizabeth Wilson, 1880 – legal paper.	
2	14	C. M. Allen – Glover Kuykendall Estate, 1870 – legal paper.	
2	15	C. M. Allen – Jonathan Welton Estate – legal papers.	
2	16	C. M. Allen – George A. Buzan vs. George G. Riely, 1881 – legal papers.	
2	17	C. M. Allen – Francis Teague vs. Adam Helderman – legal papers.	
2	18	C. M. Allen – Joseph Brown Estate, 1841 – legal papers.	
2	19	C. M. Allen – State of Indiana vs. Hooten – legal papers.	
2	20	C. M. Allen – Rebecca Myers vs. John Madison, et.al., 1877 – legal papers.	
2	21	C. M. Allen – Robert Gheers vs. Reuben R. Rickets – legal papers.	
2	22	Allen Family Papers – Gosport Stone & Lime Co., cash book, ca 1872.	
2	23	C. M. Allen – Robert Gilmore vs. Indianapolis & Vincennes R.R. (Genl. A. C. Burnside) – legal papers.	
2	24	Allen Family Papers, Vincennes, City papers – legal papers.	
2	25	C. M. Allen – Indianapolis & Vincennes R.R. – legal papers.	
2	26	C. M. Allen – Accounts, Personal .	
2	27	C. M. Allen – Legal Instruments as part of law office, miscellaneous.	
2	28	C. M. Allen – Disbarment proceedings against Judge William F. Townsend, 1899 – copy of newspaper story.	
3	1	C. M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, January 1861 – December 1863 – Oath of Office and Allegiance (7-7-1864), letters.	
3	2	C. M. Allen – Correspondence, January – December 1864; photocopied letters included.	
3	3	C. M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, January – December 1864; photocopied letters included.	
3	4	C. M. Allen – Correspondence, January – December 1865; photocopied letters included.	
3	5	C. M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, January – December 1865 – letters describe his time in Kansas military posting (Fort Fletcher); notification of	

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		appointment to Second Lieutenant in the Second Regiment of Cavalry.	
3	6	C. M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, January 1 – March 31, 1866 – letters from Kansas military posting; military related forms.	
3	7	Cyrus Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, April 1 – June 30, 1866 – letters including a letter written from Fort Laramie (army post).	
3	8	C.M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, etc., July 1 – September 30, 1866 – letters including letters from Fort Riley and Fort Ellsworth, Kansas and a small envelope containing strands of hair.	
3	9	C. M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, October 1 – December 31, 1866 – letters and military forms related to Fort Riley, Kansas.	
3	10	C.M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, June 1 – June 31, 1867 – letters from Fort McPherson and Fort Laramie.	
3	11	C.M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, July 1 – October 31, 1867 – letters including those from Fort McPherson and Fort Riley, Kansas and Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory, and a small envelope with pressed flower.	
3	12	C.M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, January – December 1868 – Letters, receipt for jewelry.	
3	13	Cyrus Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, January 1 – December 31, 1869 – Letters.	
3	14	C. M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, 1870-1877 – Letters, Receipts for purchased merchandise (N. Smith & Sons, Neab & Merrill), typed transcript of letter written January 13, 1877.	
3	15	Cyrus Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, 1878-1879 – Letters and receipts (Egan & Treat), typed transcript of letter written January 28, 1879.	
3	16	Cyrus Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, 1880-1889 – Letters, typed transcripts of letters.	
3	17	Cyrus M. Allen - Correspondence, 1890 – 1892 – Letters, typed transcripts of letters.	
3	18	C. M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, 1893-1894 – Letters, typed transcripts of letters.	
3	19	Cyrus Allen, Jr. – Correspondence, 1895-1899 – Letters.	
3	20	Cyrus M. Allen – Correspondence, no date – Letters.	
3	21	C.M. Allen – Early Prisoner Records (Military) ca. 1840 .	

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3	22	C.M. Allen – Charles Gould against The Evansville & Illinois R.R. Co. Judgment Supreme Court of New York.	
3	23	Allen Family Papers – Book, private docket, Allen, Usher and Gardiner, 1869.	
4	1	Cyrus Allen, Jr., - Correspondence, 1900-1907 – letters, typed transcript of letter dated 1-6-90..	
4	2	C.M. Allen, Jr. – Correspondence – Military Period – no date - letters, calling cards.	
4	3	Cyrus Allen, Jr. – Correspondence – no date – letters and photocopy of letter.	
4	4	C.M. Allen, Jr. – United States Military Academy – includes the Biographical Register, Class of 1865 for the U.S. Military Academy – this document is typed and includes some handwritten notations.	
4	5	C.M. Allen, Jr. – Knox County (Indiana) Papers – assorted papers and receipts.	
4	6	C.M. Allen, Jr. – City of Vincennes Papers – includes sample bonds.	
4	7	C.M. Allen, Jr. – Vincennes City Mayor James S. Pritchett Case of impeachment – 1874 – transcript of proceedings.	
4	8	C.M. Allen, Jr. – Special election on Gravel Roads in Knox County, 1899.	
4	9	C.M. Allen, Jr. – Receipts – various dates and businesses.	
4	10	C.M. Allen, Jr. – Miscellaneous – This contains a small account book dated 1879 with a variety of entries for expenses.	
4	11	Anne Eastman Allen Correspondence – undated to her husband, Cyrus Allen, Jr. - #1.	
4	12	Anne Eastman Allen “Puss” Correspondence – undated to her husband, Cyrus Allen, Jr. - #2.	
4	13	Anne Eastman Allen “Puss” – Correspondence – undated to her husband, Cyrus Allen, Jr., - #3.	
4	14	Anne Eastman Allen “Puss” – Correspondence – undated letters to her husband, C.M. Allen, Jr. - #4.	
4	15	Anne Eastman Allen “Puss” – correspondence – undated to husband, C.M. Allen, Jr. – typed manuscripts.	

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4	16	Anne Eastman Allen "Puss" – correspondence – undated to husband, Cyrus Allen, Jr. – typed manuscripts.	
5	1	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence, January 1 – June 30, 1895 .	
5	2	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence, July 1 – September 30, 1895.	
5	3	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence, October 1 – December 31, 1895.	
5	4	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence, January 1896.	
5	5	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence, February 1896.	
5	6	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence, March 1896.	
5	7	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence, April 1896.	
5	8	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – May 1896.	
5	9	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – June 1896.	
5	10	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – July 1896.	
5	11	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – August 1896.	
6	1	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – September 1896.	
6	2	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – October 1896.	
6	3	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – November 1896.	
6	4	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – December 1896 – includes copy of her wedding invitation.	
6	5	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – January 1 – March 31, 1897.	
6	6	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – April 1 – June 30, 1897.	
6	7	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – July 1 – September 30, 1897.	
6	8	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – October 1 – December 31, 1897.	
6	9	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – January 1 – March 31, 1898 – letters and includes information/statement from Aetna Life	



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		Insurance Company.	
6	10	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – April 1898.	
6	11	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – May 1898.	
6	12	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – June 1898.	
6	13	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – July 1 – September 30, 1898.	
6	14	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – October 1 – December 31, 1898.	
7	1	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – January 1 – March 31, 1899.	
7	2	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – July 1 – December 31, 1899 – letters including information concerning a Supreme Court decision for back pay for her father.	
7	3	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – April 1 – June 30, 1899.	
7	4	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – June 1 – June 30, 1900.	
7	5	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – July 1 – December 31, 1900.	
7	6	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – January 1 – December 31, 1901.	
7	7	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – June 1 – December 31, 1902 – letters including a list items purchased/visits to Dr. Lyman M. Beckes.	
7	8	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – January 1 – December 31, 1903 – letters including statements of item ordered including books	
7	9	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – January 1- December 31, 1904 – one letter in this file.	
7	10	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – correspondence – no date.	
7	11	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – telegrams – various dates.	
7	12	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – telegrams – various dates.	
7	13	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – Insurance policies.	
7	14	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – receipts – various Vincennes businesses.	

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7	15	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – miscellaneous- includes calling cards, photo and invitation to Vincennes University graduation, 1897.	
7	16	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – receipts – various Vincennes businesses.	
7	17	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – receipts – various Vincennes businesses.	
7	18	Mary Lloyd Allen (Johnson) – receipts – various Vincennes businesses.	
8	1	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) - Correspondence, January 1, 1949 – February 22, 1983 – letters including reference to ownership of the Harrison Mansion, remembering early Vincennes, references to Vincennes University.	
8	2	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – Correspondence – no date – one item in folder.	
8	3	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – Legal Documents – trust papers for the benefit of Ann Allen Johnson by Elizabeth N. Johnson, passport for Allen Renick 1925, passport for Allen Johnson 1923.	
8	4	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – Manuscripts “Sweet Flag” and “The Beast at Squire’s Gate” includes a note that these stories were written by Ann Allen Johnson when she was a student at Smith University (typed and handwritten pages).	
8	5	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – Manuscripts “Nell Munroe” – handwritten manuscript.	
8	6	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – Manuscripts “In love with Cotton” and “George Sensitive Soul” – typed and handwritten pages.	
8	7	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – Correspondence, March 8, 1918 – July 31, 1929 – includes travel documents, application for individual permit for single purchase of liquor (Banff Alberta, Canada – 1927), air travel document – Imperial Airways, Limited, London, 1925, telegrams, passport cover 1925, assorted items.	
8	8	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – Manuscripts, “Edith Lockharts Husband” and “Kathryn & Ishmld” - typed and handwritten pages.	
8	9	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – Manuscripts, “Father Bowman’s Household” (in part) – handwritten pages.	
8	10	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – High school class, Lincoln High, Vincennes.	
8	11	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – recipes.	
8	12	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – passports (6) various years.	

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8	13	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – passports (7) various years.	
8	14	Ann Allen Johnson (Renick) – Smith College.	
8	15	William Nelson Johnson, Jr. – Correspondence, January 1 – December 31, 1910.	
8	16	Allen Family Papers – Receipts, etc. – various dates.	
8	17	Allen Family Papers – Photographs (3).	
8	18	Allen Family Papers – Invitations, awards, etc.	
8	19	Allen Family Papers – Genealogy Materials.	
8	20	Allen Family Papers, Miscellaneous.	
8	21	Orrill G. Thompson – correspondence, January 1, 1983 - ?	
8	22	Allen Family Papers – needlework/embroidery piece with note “This was made by Mrs. Ann Allen Johnson Renick’s mother, Mary Lloyd Allen Johnson, no date.	
8	23	Allen Family Papers – Lace table mat with note “Sept. 14, 1983. This is one of 1- Mrs. Cyrus McCracken Allen’s Jr. wedding presents given to her daughter 2- Mary Lloyd Allen Johnson when she married – pass on to her granddaughter 3 – Ann Allen Johnson Renick. Thank you, Orrill G. Thompson.	
9	1	Allen Family Papers – miscellaneous items including ticket stubs, calling cards, ration timetable information, dance cards (1919, 1920, 1921).	
9	2	Allen Family Papers – miscellaneous items including Cyrus A. Allen wallet containing his calling card and his Fraternal Identification Co. of America Co. card, White Star Line R.M.S. Majestic Passenger List for October 1922, ration books and stamps, calling cards, U.S. Naval Academy dual track meet, 1920, passenger list, for “President Monroe” November 1923, graduation announcement for Vincennes High School class of 1916, songbook of Christmas songs (handwritten musical sheets, lyrics and artwork on cover) by Allen Johnson.	
9	3	Allen Family Papers – miscellaneous – typed manuscript and survey on the subject of advertising to consumers, 1937.	
9	4	Allen Family Papers – clippings and photocopies of newspaper articles.	



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