

surveying and civil engineering, and spent one summer assisting in surveying the railroad from Auburn to Rochester. Another year was spent in Indiana, then a comparative wilderness, in surveying and laying out portions of that State. Returning to Phelps he resumed his teaching, and in the spring of 1848 came with his family to Barre, settling first on a farm of seventy acres in what is known as the Burmah district. Five years later he sold this and removed to a farm near Barre Center, whence he came in 1866 to the town of Albion, locating just south of the village, where he died May 20, 1894.

During the major portion of his residence in Orleans county Mr. Allen followed the dual avocations of farmer and surveyor. He never affiliated with politics in a prominent sense, but was actively identified with many enterprises of a general character. He was no office seeker, yet for several years he served as one of the assessors of Barre. It was in the profession of surveying and civil engineering, however, that he was best known. In this capacity in this county he was employed by over 2,200 persons and by the court was appointed on twenty-eight ditch commissions. He also assisted in dividing and settling twenty-five estates, and was one of the originators and for many years a director of the Orleans County Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Mr. Allen had naturally what might be called a mathematical mind, which was greatly improved by careful study, until he acquired such a mastery of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and mensuration that there were very few problems in either of those branches which he could not elucidate and demonstrate. He also, by long practice, had become very familiar with the use and management of the best surveying and engineering instruments. He was often called as an expert witness in close and troublesome litigation respecting boundary lines and proportionate division of lands in dispute in court, and there is no instance recollected in which in any of these cases his professional opinion was overruled or set aside. He possessed indomitable courage and perseverance, and was characteristically prompt to meet engagements, his reliability in this connection being proverbial. He was excessively careful to cause no one any inconvenience or trouble in waiting. He was decidedly a self-made man and endowed with a keen observation at once discriminating and accurate, a strict integrity and a charity that could not often be provoked to speak ill of another were not the least of his many virtues. He loved his work and took great pride in its proper execution. Above all he was a patriotic and useful citizen, a faithful friend, and a pleasant and genial companion. In religion he was a consistent Baptist, being an influential member of that church during his entire residence in the county. While his religious convictions were of the strictest New England orthodox faith, yet his mind was of that free and fair nature that it was always open to the reception of new truths, if any there were, from whatever source they might be presented.

Mr. Allen was married on the 6th of June, 1838, in Phelps, N. Y., to Miss Edna Robinson, daughter of James Robinson, who was one of the early settlers of Ontario county and who built the first house in Canandaigua. She survives him, residing on the homestead in Albion. Their children were Alvin R. Allen, clerk of Orleans county; Dr. A. J. Allen, of Lockport, N. Y.; Dr. William C. Allen, of Colorado Springs, Col.; and Josephus W., James G., and Frank M. Allen, deceased.