

Discussion on the two Ralph Allens in the records extracted from the article on George Allen which begins on page 27, Ancestry.com image 125.

RALPH: For about a decade there were two Ralph Allens residing in Sandwich, whose records are difficult to disentangle. On 4 March 1680/1, "Anthony Wright commenced suit ... against Ralph Allen, Junior" [PCR 7:52, 54]. On 4 August 1651, a warrant was "directed to require Ralph Allen, Senior, personally to appear, to answer unto such misdemeanors as whereof he is accused" [PCR 2:171]. With two exceptions to be discussed later, distinctions between Senior and Junior were not seen after 7 June 1659, when "Ralph Allin, Senior," appeared in a list of men summoned to appear at court for refusing to take the oath of fidelity [PCR 3:168]. The name Ralph Allen appeared again on 6 October 1659 and several subsequent occasions in late 1659 and through 1660, in similar circumstances, without a marker for seniority [PCR 3:176, 181, 191, 201, 209], suggesting that one of the Ralph Allens died in the fall of 1659.

We may begin to make some progress in unravelling the tangle of records by examining those which state an occupation, "Experience Allin the daughter of Ralphe Allin mason" was born at Sandwich on 14 March 1651 [MD 14:109' SandVR 1:12]. Two other births for children of a Ralph Allen at about this time were "Jediah Allen," born 3 January 1646, and "Epherim Allin," born 20 March 1656 [MD 14:109, 166; SandVR 1:12, 16]. On 12 October 1662, "Jone Swift of Sandwich" (widow of William) included in her will bequests to "my grandchild Experience Allen" and "unto Jedediah Allen and Experience Allen" [MD 16:21-22, citing PCPR 2:2:16]. As noted by Charles Carroll Gardner, the entries in a fragmentary Bible record for this family may be interpreted to imply that Ralph Allen, father of Jedediah Allen, died before "Jane Swift," the testator of 1662 and grandmother of Jedediah [NEHGR 25:146; GMNJ 16:52]. Thus, Ralph Allen, mason, whose wife was a Swift, and who had children Jedediah, Experience and Ephraim, would be the one who died in or about late 1659.

On 29 June 1663, Constant Southworth sold to "Ralph Allin of the town of Sandwich ... wheelwright ... all that my portion or lot of land lying and being at the place or places commonly called Acushena, Coaksett and places adjacent" [MD 18:171-72, citing PCLR 2:2:129]. On 15 October 1663, "Allis Bradford" sold to "Ralph Allin of the town of Sandwich ... wheelwright ... the one half of my whole entire part, portion or share of land being the one half of a purchaser's share of land ... at the place or places commonly called and known by the names of Acushena, Coakseft and places adjacent" [MD 18:176-77, citing PCLR 2:2:131b-c]. In his will of 18 December 1691, "Ralph Allin of Sandwich" made bequests to children John, Joseph, Increase, Ebenezer, Zachariah and Patience (to the last of whom he gave "one quarter part of that share of land which I bought of Constant Southward"), and named as his overseers "my brother William Allen and Edward Perry" [MD 32:166, citing BarnPR 2:75]. Thus, Ralph Allen, wheelwright, who lived far past 1659, was the son of the immigrant George Allen.

We now return to the two records which refer to Ralph Allen Senior after 1659. On 5 June 1671, "Ralph Allin, Senior," was made a surveyor of highways at Sandwich [PCR 5:58]. On 18 April 1675, "Meary Allen, the daughter of Ralph Allen Senior," was buried at Sandwich [MD 14:169; SandVR 1:19]. From 1660 until the end of the century, no Ralph Allen of Sandwich is known other than the testator of 1691. The second of these records does not necessarily refer to a living Ralph Allen, but the first certainly does.

In summary, Ralph Allen, Senior, wheelwright, son of the immigrant George Alien, died in the 1690s, and Ralph Allen, Junior, mason, of undetermined kinship, died in or about 1659.

Ralph Allen, the son of the immigrant, was apparently born about 1617, so Ralph Allen Junior, whatever his relation, must have been younger. Some of the accounts of the Ralph Allen who was not son of the immigrant had an earlier wife than the one discussed above, and by this supposed wife he had older children [JKA:Ralph 19-20; GMNJ] 16:52]. John K. Allen reported the marriage at St Mary-le-Bow, London, on 6 May 1619 of Ralph Allen and Hester English, and suggested this was a first marriage for Ralph Allen Junior [JKA:Ralph 20] .

Given the chronology stated above, this marriage cannot have been for Ralph Allen Junior of Sandwich, and the earlier children ascribed to him by these authors must not be considered part of his family.

Key to Titles:

BarnPR – Barnstable County, Massachusetts, Probate Records

GMNJ – Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, Volume 1 through present (1925+) -*The 1941 article by Charles Gardner referenced here was generously scanned for me by the magazine's trustee Scott Holmes.*

JKA – John Kermott Allen – “In 1924 John Kermott Allen prepared typescript accounts of “George Allen of Weymouth, Mass., 1635...” and of “Ralph Allen of Sandwich, Massachusetts,” copies of which were deposited in major genealogical libraries. Online at <https://archive.org/details/ralphallenofsand00alle/page/n5/mode/2up>

PCLR – Plymouth Colony Deeds (from microfilm; Volume 1 has been published as Volume 12 of PCR)

PCR – Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England, Nathaniel B. Shurtleff and David Pulsifer, eds., 12 volumes in 10 (Boston 1855-1861). <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/344454>

NEHGR – New England Historical and Genealogical Record (Membership needed for issues after 1922.)

MD – Mayflower Descendant, Volume 1 through present (1899-1937, 1985 +)

SandVR – Caroline Lewis Kardell and Russell A. Lovell, Jr., *Vital Records of Sandwich, Massachusetts, to 1885*, 3 volumes (Boston 1996)

- Vol 1 is at <https://digital.americanancestors.org/digital/collection/p15869coll33/id/20389/>
- Vol 2: <https://digital-americanancestors-org.nehgs.idm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15869coll33/id/20390/rec/3>
- Vol 3 (Index): <https://digital-americanancestors-org.nehgs.idm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15869coll33/id/21247/rec/1>