

# **Allen and Roberts family papers, 1846-1931**

## **HC.1155**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
<b>Creator</b>	Allen, Samuel Leeds, 1814-1918
<b>Creator</b>	Allen, Sarah H. Roberts, 1843-1928
<b>Creator</b>	Allen, Susan Janney
<b>Creator</b>	Roberts, Elisha, 1819-1906
<b>Creator</b>	Roberts, Lizzie
<b>Title</b>	Allen and Roberts Family Papers
<b>Date</b>	1846-1931
<b>Extent</b>	5.0 Boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	Primarily the letters of the interconnected Philadelphia-area Quaker families, Allen and Roberts in the period 1846-1931. The predominant letter writers are Sarah H. Roberts Allen and her daughter, Susan Janney Allen and Lillie Allen, as well as Lizzie Roberts, though there are a considerable number from Samuel Allen, inventor of some agricultural tools as well as the "flexible flyer" sled.

## Leeds and Roberts family members

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Quaker farmer, inventor and manufacturer, Samuel Allen (1841-1918) was the son of John and Rebecca Leeds Allen. He attended Westtown School near Philadelphia and married Sarah Hootene Roberts in 1866. As early as 1866, Allen had experimented with two tin wash basins attached by a metal clasp. The basins rotated and spread fertilizer or garden seed evenly. He and Elisha Roberts formed the S.L. Allen & Co, which made Planet Junior Gardening Equipment and later invented the sled known as "The Flexible Flyer." They were later bought out by a NY firm. (from Dictionary of Quaker Biography)

Sarah H. Roberts Allen (1843-1928), married to Samuel Allen in 1866, was the daughter of Elisha Roberts and Elizabeth Hooten Roberts (1819-1889). She died in Orlando FL, "in her 86th year". She was a member of Chester Monthly Meeting, NJ (from The Friend, v. 101, p. 494)

Susan Janney Allen, daughter of Sarah and Samuel Allen, was possibly a missionary among the Native Americans, and also corresponding secretary and treasurer of "The Friendly Haven Association"

Elisha and Elizabeth Roberts' children were: William Hunt Roberts, Samuel S., Anna B., David, Sarah H. and Joseph Roberts.

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## Scope and Contents note

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Primarily correspondence of the Quaker Roberts and Allen families of the Philadelphia area in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Central figures include: Samuel L. Allen (1841-1918), Sarah (Sallie) H. Roberts Allen (1843-1928), Susan Janney Allen, Anna B. (Annie) Roberts and Lillie Allen. Their topics provide insight into social networking and close family ties as well as health issues, attendance at Meeting and some travel, occasionally noting external events such as the Civil War.

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## Arrangement note

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Letters and papers arranged alphabetically by author.

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Family Name(s)**

- Allen family
- Roberts family

## Correspondence

## Collection Inventory

Correspondence	
<b>Samuel Allen letters 1872-1917 30.0 Items</b>	<b>Box 1</b>
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
<p>Samuel Allen's letters are primarily to his daughter, Susan, as well as to his wife and parents, mainly with details of his travel, business and family. He writes about attending an agricultural meeting (1872); visiting rice swamps in Georgia (1885); contemplating manufacturing sleds as well as agricultural implements (1887); business problems for Phila. Quaker meetings (1887); hopes Germany will follow Russia's example into a republic form of government (1917)</p>	
<b>Sarah (Sallie) H. Roberts Allen letters 1866-1917 50.0 Items</b>	<b>Box 1</b>
<b>Susan Janney Allen letters 1917-1926 (Bulk, 1917) 25.0 Items</b>	<b>Box 1</b>
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
<p>Primarily written while traveling, the letters often refer to visits with Native Americans in various parts of the United States and a great deal about driving</p>	
<b>Letters of other Allen family members 30.0 Items</b>	<b>Box 1</b>
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
<p>Other letter writers include: Charles Allen, E. Allen, Elizabeth Allen, George Allen, John C. Allen, Lillie Allen, Ruthanna Allen</p>	

**Letter writers: A****Letter writers: A 1.0 Folder****Box**

2

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include:

Rachel Alsop (ca. 25 items), Frances Andrews (3 items), Mrs. Arnold (1 item)

**Letter writers: B 1.0 Folder****Box**

2

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: Anna B. (1 item), E. Balderston (1 item) , Jane Bartlett (1 item), J. Henry Bartlett (1 item), B. Barton (1 item), H.J. Beans (1 item), Frances Boice (2 items), J.T. Braun (1 item), Thomas K. Brown (1 item: mistakes in relations with Indians), Brown's Mills TB Sanatorium, Lucy Burt (4 items), John Bushnell(1 item: interested in [Susan] Allen's Noiseless Portable), G.D. Bustamante (1 item: interested in Samuel Allen's machines)

**Letter writers: C 1.0 Folder****Box**

2

**Scope and Contents note**

California Book-plate Society (1 item); Carter family (3 items)

**Letter writers: D 1.0 Folder****Box**

2

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: Clarice d'Apery (2 items); Ruthanna de Couo (3 items); Carrie Denton (1 item); -, Dickson (1 item); Elizabeth Dunn (1 item); S.J. D. (1 item);

**Letter writers: E 1.0 Folder****Box**

2

**Letter writers: F-G****Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: Essie Edgerton (8 items); Grace Evans (1 item); Rebecca Evans (1 item); William Bacon Evans (3 items); Mary Ewing (2 items);

**Letter writers: F-G 1.0 Folder****Box**

2

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: Mary Anna Forsythe (2 items; refers to Sarah Allen's grandparents as being superintendent and matron as Westtown School); Prince Gardner (5 items: relating to Society of Friends issues); S. Garrett (3 items); H. Goodwin (1 item); Gribbel family (1 item); Mary G. (1 item)

**Letter writers: H-I 1.0 Folder****Box**

3

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: H. Howson (1 item); Hayes Lithographing Co. (2 items); Hearth & Home (1 item); Anna Hiss (1 item); Dora Hoag (1 item); Susanna House (1 item); Ed Hunt (1 item); S.H. (1 item); Innes & Sons (1 item)

**Letters writers: J 1.0 Folder****Box**

3

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: J.G. Martin (1 item); Louisa Jacob (1 item); Elizabeth James (2 items); Anna Janney (1 item); Susan W. Janney (ca. 20 items, 1862-1916); Herbert Job (1 item); Helen Just (1 item). Highlights include: Janney, Susan. 1862-63. [refers to ravages of Civil War, some of which have affected her family]

**Letter writers: K 1.0 Folder****Box**

3

**Scope and Contents note**

**Letter writers: L**

Letter writers include: Ida Kei-- (1 item); Charles Kellogg (2 items); Emily Kellog (ca. 20 items); Anna Ketchal (1 item)

**Letter writers: L 1.0 Folder****Box**  
3**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: Emma Langenecker (ca. 20 items); Morris E. Leeds (1 item); M.M. Leeds (1 item); Sarah Leeds (1 item)

**Letter writers: M 1.0 Folder****Box**  
3**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: Esther MacAdam (3 items); Mansfield Shop (2 items); Rebecca Matlack (1 item); Henry Merrill (2 items); Ambler Moncure (3 items); Edith Moncure (1 item); Moore's Rural New York (1 item)

**Letter writers: P 1.0 Folder****Box**  
3**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: Sarah and H.S. Paine (2 items); Paragon Shorthand Institute (1 item); Paul Peck (1 item)

**Anna B. (Annie) Roberts letters 1.0 Folder****Box**  
4**Scope and Contents note**

1864-1873 & n.d. ca. 25 items. Written primarily to her sister, Sallie Roberts Allen on issues relating to family, attending Meeting, visiting with friends and the events of daily life, with a reference to polio (1873 8/17)

**Roberts Family Members 1.0 Folder****Box**  
4

**Letter writers: R****Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: A.W. Roberts (2 items); David Roberts (2 items); E.H. R[oberts?] (3 items); Elisha Roberts (5 items); E.W. [Elizabeth Weston] Roberts (ca. 10 items); Lizzie Roberts (ca. 15 items); William H. Roberts (2 items). Contents relate daily life, family, friends and acquaintances, many written from Westtown and affording some information about the school

**Letter writers: R 1.0 Folder****Box**  
4**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: William Rhoads (2 items); Arthur Richie (1 item); Edward B. Richie (6 items); Isaac Richards (3 items); E.H. Rollins (1 item); [Rugs] (1 item); R.H. R-- (1 item); Ruth R-- (1 item); Margaret R-- (1 item) Note: In 1885, Samuel Allen, Edward Richie and William H. Roberts are on the letterhead for S.L. Allen & Co. stationery

**Letter writers: S 1.0 Folder****Box**  
4**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: C.F. Saunders (6 items); H.C. Scattergood (1 item); Thomas Cattergood (1 item); Ann Sharpless (1 item); R.G. Smedley (3 items); Smiley Brothers (1 item); Anna Smith (5 items); E.B. Stokes (2 items); Joshua Stokes (1 item); William Stokes (1 item) Note: Item for Joshua Stokes is a funeral announcement (1867)

**Letter writers: T 1.0 Folder****Box**  
4**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: Amelia Taber (1 item); E. Tatnall (2 items); Lucy Tatnall (2 items); R.A. Tatnall (ca. 20 items); Alice Taylor (1 item); Ann Thayer (1 item); P.S. Thayer (1 item); Wanda Thomas (1 item); William Tomsley? (1 item)

**Letter writers: W & Y****Letter writers: W & Y 1.0 Folder****Box**

5

**Scope and Contents note**

Letter writers include: Susan Walker (1 item); Anna Warrington (1 item); A.B. Way (1 item); Westtown School (4 items); Edward Wildman (2 items); Lydia Willis (2 items); Robert Wood (3 items); Edward Yarnall (2 items)

**Letter writers: Unattributed, initials or first names only 3.0 Folder****Box**

5

**Photographs 1.0 Folder****Scope and Contents note**

10 photographs, all taken in Hugo OK in 1917 depicting unnamed people and fields of flowers: coreopsis & roses. The envelope in which they were found was labeled "Sue's Oklahoma."

**Papers****Box**

5

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes the papers of Charles Allen, Samuel L. Allen, Sarah H. Roberts Allen and Susan Janney Allen.

Allen, Charles: 3 student exercise notebooks, including copy work, Latin, therapeutic applications;

Allen, Samuel L.: Notes re agricultural tools made during trips to Calif. and Brocton in 1898 & 1899; Financial accounts, 1864-82;

Roberts, Sallie H. (later Sallie Roberts Allen): 2 diaries, 1864 & 1866;

Papers

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Allen, Susan J.: Grades from Westtown Boarding School, 1895; 2 financial accounts; "'The Friendly Haven Association" Industrial Home and Hospital Service for the Welfare and Uplift of the American Indian'. Susan J. Allen, Corresponding Sec'y & Treas.