Allen and Hancock Family papers
3.25 linear feet; 6 half-manuscript boxes, 1 oversize flat file
1903-2013, bulk 1990-1999

Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland

Finding aid written by Kate S. Fair, September 2014.

Accession Number: 2012.214

Creators: Mary Beulah Nock Allen; Dr. Gladys Martha Allen; Julia “Betsy” Allen Hancock

Acquisition: The Allen and Hancock Family papers were donated to the Nabb Research Center by Julia “Betsy” Allen Hancock, her estate and her daughter, Susan Van Duyne, in a series of four accessions from 2012-2013.

Language: Majority of material in English; one newspaper clipping written in Arabic.

Use: Records are open for research. Copyright, including literary rights, belongs to the author(s) or their legal heirs.

Citation Style: “Item, Allen and Hancock Family papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland.”

Related Materials: Allen Land Records collection, 2005.074
Fulton Allen papers, 1998.116

Separated Materials: Oversized materials have been housed in the Nabb Research Center’s flat file system. Maps have been housed in tube storage.

Library materials were separated from the collection and incorporated into the Nabb Research Center’s non-circulating collection.

Three-dimensional objects have been catalogued and housed in object storage.
Biographical History: Beulah Nock Allen (1894 – 1987) attended the State Teacher’s College in Salisbury, Maryland and later served as President of its Alumni Association in 1947-1948. She and her husband, Walter, were married in Stockton, Maryland on September 3, 1918. The Allens served as missionaries to India with the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society; Mrs. Allen specifically fulfilling the role of teacher. The couple had two daughters while abroad: Gladys Martha and Florence-Byrd. Tragically, Walter was stricken with typhoid fever and died in 1925. After a brief return to the United States, Mrs. Allen accepted another missionary service role in October 1931 with the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society at the American School for Missionary Children in Taunggyi, Burma. Upon her return to the United States in 1938, Beulah completed coursework at the Teacher’s College, Columbia University in 1940. She remained in the Salisbury area and lived with daughter Gladys until 1985, at which time she became a resident of the Salisbury Nursing Home.

Dr. Gladys Martha Allen (1923 – 2012), medical missionary for the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and doctor of obstetrics and gynecology, was born in Jorhat, Assam, India to missionaries Beulah Nock Allen and Walter Kendall Allen. Upon her father’s death in 1925 from typhoid fever, Gladys, her sister Florence-Byrd and Mrs. Allen moved to the United States. Gladys attended the Salisbury Normal School until her mother’s missionary work brought the family to Burma in 1931. While residing in Burma, Gladys continued her education at Woodstock School and College in Mussoorie, Uttarakhandi, India. The family returned to the United States in 1938 and Gladys completed her high school education at Lackey High School in Indian Head, Maryland, graduating in 1940. She then completed medical studies at the University of Maryland, College Park (1943), the University of Maryland Medical School in Baltimore (1947), and the Women’s Hospital of Philadelphia (1948-1952). After five years of service as a doctor at the mission hospital in Gauhati, Assam, India (1953-1958), Gladys returned to Salisbury and established an obstetrics and gynecology practice in 1959 which she ran until 1974. Upon her retirement in 1986 Gladys was recognized for her outstanding service to the community, most notably as a public health officer in Wicomico County and chief public health officer in Somerset County. She later was recognized in March 2009 by the Governor of Maryland, Maryland State Senate and Maryland House of Delegates for her 50 years of service as a member of the Quota Club.

Julia Elizabeth (Betsy) Allen Hancock (1925 – 2013) was born in Salisbury, Maryland, to Lois Jennings Allen and Fulton White Allen. Betsy, as she was known, had three siblings: a brother, Walter Kendall Allen II, and two sisters: Dorothy Brittingham and Ruth Buck. Educated exclusively in Maryland, Betsy attended the Salisbury Normal School, Wicomico High School (1942), and Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, from which she received a degree in Sociology (1947). After 19½ years of service as a social worker for the Wicomico County Department of Social Services, Betsy retired in 1984 but remained a visible presence within the community as an avid square dancer. Together with Edward Fooks, her companion of 27 years, Betsy attended square dance conventions throughout Canada and the United States and belonged
to the Ocean Waves Square Dance Club. Based in Salisbury, Ocean Waves was founded in 1976 and was reformed in 1982 after a brief hiatus. The club was active throughout the Eastern Shore of Maryland, often traveling to local square dance conventions and workshops, and providing square dance demonstrations at local parades and festivals. These and other activities were documented in newspaper and magazine clippings which Betsy saved. The years of Betsy’s service as club president (1990, 1995, 1999) were marked by a decline in club membership and efforts to attract new members, as well as discussions amongst club members concerning dance schedule changes. A native of Salisbury and Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Betsy was very interested in its history and collected various books and pamphlets on local topics or written by local authors; she also saved the newspaper obituaries and funeral cards of friends, acquaintances, and fellow square dancers. Betsy died in Salisbury at the age of 87 on September 28, 2013.

**Scope and Content Note:** The Allen and Hancock Family papers encompass the personal interests and professional activities of Maryland Eastern Shore residents Beulah Nock Allen, Dr. Gladys Martha Allen, and Julia “Betsy” Allen Hancock. The materials date from 1903-2013 with the bulk of the material dating 1990-1999. Personal and professional activities are documented via school notebooks, certificates and diplomas; fiduciary statements; meeting minutes; correspondence; newspaper and magazine clippings; photographs; and scrapbooks. Two cloth sashes showcase square dance pins Betsy amassed during her years of dancing; a loose assortment of pins, fabric patches, lace headpieces, garters, and ribbons complete her personal collection of square dance memorabilia. Other ephemera include a sizeable artifact collection personally donated to the Nabb Research Center by Julia “Betsy” Allen Hancock.

**Arrangement Statement:** The Allen and Hancock family papers have been arranged into three series according to creator: BEULAH NOCK ALLEN, DR. GLADYS MARTHA ALLEN, and JULIA “BETSY” ALLEN HANCOCK. The materials within each series are arranged first by subject, then chronologically. Series I (Beulah Nock Allen) contains personal materials related to Beulah’s education and professional materials related to her missionary work. Materials pertinent to Beulah’s late husband, Walter Kendall Allen, and the Allen Memorial Baptist Church are also contained within Series I. Series II (Dr. Gladys Martha Allen) contains personal materials related to Gladys’ education in both India and the United States; awards and certificates recognizing community service; and professional materials related to her work as an obstetrician and gynecologist. Series III (Julia “Betsy” Allen Hancock) contains personal materials related to Betsy’s education and family, as well as records which document the administrative and financial activities of the Ocean Waves Square Dance Club; these include correspondence, fiduciary statements, meeting minutes, photographs, and printed materials related to their
activities. Materials pertinent to Betsy’s parents, Fulton White Allen and Lois Jennings Allen are also contained within Series III.

Folders are listed by their location in each box; any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entirety of the collection.

**Subject Terms:**

**General Terms**
- Assam, Burma, India
- Education – Maryland
- Salisbury, (Md.)
- Square dancing

**Corporate Names**
- Allen Memorial Baptist Church (Salisbury, Md.)
- Ocean Waves Square Dance Club
- University of Maryland, College Park
- Wicomico County High School

**Personal Names**
- Allen, Beulah Nock
- Allen, Fulton White
- Allen, Dr. Gladys Martha
- Allen, Lois Jennings
- Allen, Walter Kendall
- Hancock, Julia “Betsy” Allen
Series I: Beulah Nock Allen

Box 1

1. Printed Materials, Photograph, 1909, 1919, undated
2. Educational Materials, Certificate, 1915 May 14
3. Yearbook, 1928
4. Yearbook, 1939
5. Educational Materials, 1940-1941
6. Educational Materials, undated
7. Educational Materials, Salisbury State Teachers College Alumni Association, 1948
10. Missionary Materials, 1933 – 1939, undated
11. Newspaper, The Times, Burma Number, Oversized, 1937 April 20
13. Map, Bible Lands, Oversized, 1938
14. Bethlehem Photographs, Sign, undated
17. Marriage Certificate, Walter Kendall Allen and Mary Beulah Nock, Oversized, 1918 September 3

Box 2

1. Composition Book, Walter Kendall Allen, undated
2. Postcards, Walter Kendall Allen, 1903, 1906-1908

Series II: Dr. Gladys Martha Allen

5. Educational Materials, 1930-1935, undated
7. Scrapbook, undated
8. Scrapbook, 1944-1946

Box 3

1. Educational Materials, School Notebooks, 1940, undated
2. Educational Materials, School Certificates and Diplomas, Oversized, 1943, 1948, 1952
3. Educational Materials, School Notebooks, undated
4. Educational Materials, University of Maryland, College Park, 1941– 1947
5. Educational Materials, Medical Certificates and Diplomas, 1947 – 1960
7. Scrapbook, Missionary Work, 1947-1953
15. Photographs, Printed Materials, Trip to Epcot, 1983 February – March
16. Plaque, Somerset County Health Department, 1986 April

**Box 4**

1. Photographs, Film Negatives, Quota Club events, 1965 June, 1982 July 22
2. Awards, Certificates, Printed Materials, Quota Club, 2009 March
3. Awards and Certificates, Oversized, 1986-2009
4. Photograph, Oversized, 1989 March
5. Birthday card, photograph, 2001

**Series III: Julia “Betsy” Allen Hancock**

6. Educational Materials, 1940-1942, undated
7. Yearbook and Class Obituaries, 1941, 1999-2006

**Box 5**

2. Printed Materials, Obituaries, Funeral Programs, Mass Cards, 200-2012, undated
5. Funeral Card, Julia “Betsy” Allen Hancock, 2013 October 22

Box 6

10. Printed Materials, Square Dancing Workshop, undated
Tube
1. Map, India, Assam, Manipur and Tripura, 1950s, 1425.010
2. Map, India, Assam, Manipur and Tripura, 1950s, 1425.011

Library Materials
3. *Here is the Church*. Mary Kate Foster. 2008
5. *Shorelines*. Vincent MacDonald. 2004

Artifacts
7. Scale, 2013.065.001, 1930s
10. Square Dancing Accessories, 2003