



***In-Depth First Settler Profile:***  
***Thomas Allen (1650) /***  
***Mistress (unknown surname) Allen***

**Name:** Thomas Allen (Allyn, Allin)

**Birth:** England; location & date unknown

**Emigration:** From England, date unknown. Possibly in Wethersfield by 1636(SAV). To Middletown with the first group of settlers c. 1650(FFS).

**Death:** Oct. 16, 1688, Middletown, Conn.(MVR, BCVR)

**Occupation & Public Service:** “In 1656 he was appointed the grave digger, and two years later the town leased the burying ground to him for ten years, reserving the right of burial therein. He held the office of Fence Viewer; was three times chosen Townsman, and was Deputy to the General Court. He was one of the persons who organized the First church in 1668, and in 1670 was elected one of the Deacons. In 1685 he was named as one of the persons to receive a patent of the town from the Colonial authorities.”(FFS)

**Marriage:** m.(1) unknown, d. after 1668 (FFS); m.(2) Martha (unknown surname) Gipson (widow of Roger Gipson)(FFS), d. 1690, Middletown, Conn.(FFS)

**Parents:** Unknown

**Children:** None

**Residence/Property:** “His home lot on the east side of Main Street was bounded north by the burying ground and meeting house yard, and east by the Great River.”(FFS)

**Will:** Vol. 1, p. 398 (MAN). (Estate inventory, October 15, 1688: 946-10-00, i.e. 946 pounds) “Having no children of his own, he made a will in which, after providing for his wife, he gave his property to his nephew Obadiah Allen, and his wife’s Gipson children.”(FFS)

**Burial Location:** Unknown, but most likely Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, Conn., where as per his agreement with the town, he was reserved the right of burial. The earliest graves closest to the river may have been moved during periods of railroad right-of-way construction, and grave markers do not survive.

**Notes:**

**(CAF):** “Inquiries concerning the previous residence or residences of Thomas Allen have not been pursued to a satisfactory result. Obadiah Allen was recommended by the elders of the church in Windsor, which renders it probable that he at least resided in that town for a time. This name is not always spelt with an e, Allen; in a town record book it has been spelt, Allyn and Allyn; on the old church records it is Allin.”

**(SAV):** “ALLYN, THOMAS, Wethersfield 1636, not migrat. from Watertown, for Bond has not nam. him, was br. of Matthew, with wh. he had extraord. controvers. in the law, as is fairly infer. from Trumbull’s Col. Rec. I. 211, was made freem. 1652, rep. 1656; and soon after d. as might be conclud. from not seeing his name as rep. in any yr. subseq. nor in the list of freem. for that town 1669; yet he may have rem. to Middletown, as no list of that sort is found from that place in Trumbull, and one of the name there was deac. wh. d. 16 Oct. 1688, having had no ch. but leav. wid. Martha, perhaps, wh.

***Abbreviation code used in SMFSD***  
***biographical sketches and in-depth profiles:***

**(MVR)** Middletown Vital Records (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

**(BCVR)** *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* (original index at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.; printed index available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.; digitized index available on CD-Rom as part of *The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.)

**(MLR)** *Middletown Land Records* (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

**(MAN)** *Digest of Connecticut Probate Records*, Hartford District (Manwaring, Charles William. *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Originally published 1904-1906; reprinted 1995. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995.)

**(CBRMC)** *Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, and Many of the Early Settled Families*. Chicago, Ill.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1903.

**(MUH)** *Middletown Upper Houses* (Adams, Charles C. *Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families*. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908.)

**(FFS)** Frank Farnsworth Starr (“The Settlers of Mattabeseck 1650-1660.” *Middletown Penny Press*, Oct. 11, 1900; also published in the *Middletown Tribune* 250th Anniversary supplement.)

**(CAF)** *Centennial Address of Rev. David Field*. (Field, David D. *Centennial Address: With Historical Sketches of Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle Haddam, Middletown, and its Parishes*. Middletown, Conn.: W.B. Casey, 1853.)

**(GMB)** *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633* (Anderson, Robert Charles, FASG. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, Vol. I-III*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996.)

**(SAV)** *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* (Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on the Basis of Farmer’s Register*. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown & Co., 1860-1862.)

**(GFHC)** *Genealogical & Family History of the State of Connecticut* (Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation*. New York, N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.)

**(HMC)** *The History of Middlesex County* (Henry Whittemore, ed. *The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885*. New York, N.Y.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884)

**(RPCC)** *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663* (Adams, Arthur W., ed. *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663*. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1928.)

**(HCCM)** *Hartford County Court Minutes, 1663-1687* (Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, CG, FASG., ed. *Hartford County, Conn., County Court Minutes, Vol. 3 & 4, 1663-1687, 1697*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2005.)

**(NEHGSR)** *NEHGS Register (New England Historical and Genealogical Register)*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-2007. (Online database available at [NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://NewEnglandAncestors.org))

**(TAG)** *The American Genealogist* (articles by Donald Lines Jacobus, ed., 1922-1971) (*The American Genealogist*. New Haven, Conn.: D.L. Jacobus, 1922-1971)



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had been wid. of Roger Jepson, and d. 1690. She calls, in her will, Obadiah A. of M. cousin. Y. not e is seen in his last syl. tho. in his bapt. rec. Apr. 1604 (if he were s. of Samuel of Chelmsford Co. Essex), the spell. is the other way.”

**(GMB):** Robert Charles Anderson’s Great Migration Begins notes that this Thomas Allen was not related to Mathew Allen of Hartford and Windsor, Conn., as was previously theorized by Stiles in his History of Ancient Windsor.

**For further reading:**

*Hale, House, and Related Families*, by Donald Lines Jacobus, Baltimore: Clearfield Publishing Co., 1952. (Section on Samuel Allen of Windsor and a discussion of the various Allen/Allyn families in Connecticut.)

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