

Alfred Lester ALLISON, Sr. & Ella MATTHEWS

Alfred Lester ALLISON, Sr.

Born: 2 September 1891, Itascas, Hill County, Texas
Died: 17 February 1976, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas
Buried: Laurel Land Cemetery; Dallas, Dallas County, Texas
Married: 12 July 1911, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas
Son of: **Alfred Fletcher ALLISON & Sarah Ann Elizabeth WEATHERSBY**

1900 U.S. Census, Hill County, Texas, E.D. 31, S.D. 6, Sheet 14B and 15A, JP 1, 20 June 1900 by O. B. Smith, Dwelling 254, Family 254:

ALLISON, Alfred, head, white, male, born Mar. 1857, age 43, married 20 years, born in Alabama, both parents born in Alabama, Farmer, can read & write, owns mortgaged farm;

Sarah A., wife, white, female, born Jan. 1860, age 40, married 20 years, 6 children born, 6 children living, born in Mississippi, both parents born in Alabama, can read & write;

Lonnie J., son, white, male, born Aug. 1880, age 19, single, at school 6 months, can read & write;

Alan L., son, white, male, born Oct. 1884, age 15, single, at school, attended school 6 months, can read & write;

Charles O., son, white, male, born Oct. 1887, age 12, single, attended school 6 months, can read & write;

Bea, son, white, male, born Sept. 1889, age 10, attended school 6 months, can read & write;

Lester A., son, white, male, born Sept. 1891, age 8;

Annie L., daughter, white, female, born July 1895, age 4.

The father of each of the children was born in Alabama and their mother was born in Mississippi. All of the children were born in Texas.

[Have not yet found this family in the 1910 census records.]

Ella MATTHEWS

Born: 19 October 1893, Wills Point, Van Zandt County, Texas
Died: 9 April 1981, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas
Daughter of: **Edward MATTHEWS & Alvina J ("Allie") BURNETT**

1900 U.S. Census, Van Zandt County, Texas, E.D. 130, Wills Point, Precinct 3, page 131a, 4 June 1900, Dwelling 74, Family No. 77:

MATTHEWS, Ed, head of household, white male, born Aug 1867, age 32, married 12 years, father born in Tennessee, mother born in Texas, occupation deputy marshal, could read & write, rented home;

Allie, wife, white female, born March 1870, age 29, married 12 years, 4 children born, 3 children living, both parents born in Texas, could read & write;

Ruth, daughter, born November 1891, age 8;

Ella, daughter, born October 1893, age 6;

Callie, daughter, born January 1896, age 4;

Loss Sims, nephew, white male, born Feb. 1885, age 15, single, both parents born in Texas, occupation telegraph messenger; can read, write and speak English.

Everyone in the household was born in Texas.

1910 U.S. Census, Dallas County, Texas, E.D. 73, S.D. 5, Sheet 22A, page 145, Justice Precinct 7, 25 April 1910, Dwelling 418, Family 430:

MATHEWS, Edward, head, male, white, age 43, married one time for 21 years, occupation Clerk, Post Office, works for wages, rents home;

Allie, wife, female, age 39, married one time for 21 years, 5 children born, 4 children living, father born in Tennessee, mother born in Mississippi, no occupation;

Ruth, daughter, female, age 18, single, occupation Book Keeper, Dry goods, works for wages;

Ellen, daughter, female, age 16, single, occupation Sales lady, Dry goods, works for wages;

Callie, daughter, female, age 14, no occupation, attending school;

Edward, son, male, age 10, no occupation, attending school.

Everyone in the household was born in Texas, and everyone could read and write.

Lester and Ellie met when he roomed with the family that lived next door to Allie (Burnett) Matthews, Ella's mother. The two of them walked to the streetcar together to go to work. Ellie was working at Titcher's and Lester was working at a meat packing plant. He later worked for a power plant, and then went to work for the U. S. Post Office in Dallas. They were married in her parents' home when Ellie was almost 18 years old and Lester was almost 20 years old.

Lester Allison and C. D. Marchman both went to work for the post office on the same day. They took the civil service exam on the same day in 1913, took the required medical exam on the same day, and both reported for work on 2 June 1913. Both men started out working in the outgoing mails division, sorting letters. They were both promoted to supervisors in 1937, and both men retired on the same day, 31 May 1957, nearly 44 years after they began work together. At the time of their retirement, they were both "foremen of mails". It was while he was working for the post office that Lester acquired the nickname of "Pete". The men there began calling him that, and the name stuck. Even his grandchildren called him that.

Lester and Ellie Matthews married on 12 July 1911, and **Marjorie** was born on 1 June 1912. For the last couple of months before she was born, Lester and Ellie lived with her parents on Rosemont Street in Dallas, so Ellie's mother could be there to help with the birth of the child and to help for a time after. They stayed there for about three months, according to a letter from Ruth Matthews to her Grandma Burnett. By July 11 when Ruth's letter was written they had moved to their home at 3012 Holmes St. They later lived at 193 Alexander, 446 Gould St., and 607 S. Lamar St.

Alfred, Jr., was born on 7 March 1917, and in the summer of 1919 (after Marjorie's seventh birthday), the family moved into a home which Pete had built for them at 402 E. Woodin Blvd. He contracted the work out, but supervised its construction. Their third child, **Glenn**, was born in this home on 24 July 1926.

1920 U.S. Census, Dallas County, Texas, Justice Princt 7, Voting Precinct 92, E.D. 107, page 213a, 2 January 1920 by Joseph W. Moore, Dwelling 5, Family 7, 311 Woodin Blvd.:

ALLISON, Alfred L., head, owns mortgaged home, male, white, age 28, married, can read and write, born in Texas, father born in Alabama, mother born in Mississippi, speaks English, Clerk, Post Office, works for wages;
Ella, wife, female, white, age 26, married, can read and write, born in Texas, both parents born in Texas, no occupation;
Marjorie, daughter, female, white, age 7, single, attending school, can read and write, born in Texas,
Alfred L., son, male, white, age 2-6/12, born in Texas

1930 U.S. Census, Dallas County, Texas, Roll 2319, Book 2, page 36A, E.D. 79, Precinct 7, Dallas City, Voting Precinct 92, 9 April 1930, Dwelling 461, Family 516, 402 E. Wooding Blvd.:

ALLISON, Alfred L., head, owns home, does not own radio, does not live on farm, male, age 38, married, age when first married 19, father born in Alabama, mother born in Mississippi, Clerk, Post Office, works for wages, employed, not a veteran;
Ella, wife, female, age 36, age when first married 17, no occupation;
Marjorie M., daughter, female, age 17, single, attending school, Stenographer, Insurance;
Alfred L. Jr., son, male, age 13, attending school;
Glen E., son, male, age 3-9/12.
Everyone in the household was born in Texas, and everyone could read and write.

Pete took great pride in his home and yard, and he used to spend some time nearly every evening hand-watering the grass, so that it would get just the right amount of water, and be good and healthy. There was a small building behind the house which housed chickens for some time, and was a playhouse for Marjorie after they quit raising chickens, but when they bought their first car, the playhouse was turned into a garage. Their first car was a Chevrolet touring car, which Pete got when Marjorie was in high school. He took her out to country roads and taught her to drive in this car when she was fourteen years old (1926).

For a time the principal and one of the teachers at Trinity Heights Grammar School lived and boarded with the Allisons. There are a couple of photographs of them with Ellie, Marjorie, and Alfred, probably taken about 1920 or 1921. Marjorie says that the year she was in the first grade, her first grade teacher lived with them.

Lester was president of the local branch of post office clerks, and delivered the welcome address at a state convention held in Dallas (date unknown). He and Ella were members of Oak Cliff Christian Church and later Rosemont Christian Church in Dallas. They were known as "Mother Al" and "Pete" by their grandchildren. Grandchildren often spent several days and nights at a time at their home, and during the heat of the day, they were expected to lie down quietly for a while. Mother Al would often sing hymns for them while they rested.

Ella's mother lived with them for many years, even while they still had children living at home. A room was fixed for her at the back of the house, and she had her own furniture there and a trunk which held memorabilia. That trunk was always a fascination to her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Lester and Ella lived in their home on Woodin Blvd. until several years after he retired. Then they moved into an apartment which would be easier to care for. After Pete died, Ella moved into a Presbyterian Nursing Home in Oak Cliff. When they died, Lester and Ella had seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. They were members of Rosemont Christian Church for many years. They were both buried in Laurel Land Cemetery in Dallas, Texas.

Sources for ALFRED LESTER "PETE" ALLISON, SR. and ELLA MATHEWS:

Family records

Alfred Lester Allison, Sr.

Marjorie (Allison) Massey, daughter

Glenn Edward Allison, Sr., son

A. F. Allison Family Bible

Ella Allison's records

labeled photographs

Golden Wedding Anniversary book

1900 U.S. Census Hill County, Texas

1900/1910 U.S. Census, Van Zandt County, Texas

1920/1930 U.S. Census, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Children of Alfred Lester ALLISON & Ella MATTHEWS

1) **Marjorie Mae ALLISON**

born: 12 June 1912, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

died: 2 Nov 2003, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

married: 1) **Eugene Carlyle HIGHT**, 5 May 1934, Austin Travis County, Texas

(divorced December 1975, Dallas County, Texas)

son of **Robert Leslie HIGHT & Lelia RUSSELL**

He was born 6 Sep 1912, McKinney, Collin County, Texas

He died 6 Feb 1976, San Jose, Santa Clara County, California (car wreck)

Married: 2) **William Lafayette ("W.L.") MASSEY, Jr.**, 22 November 1981, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

He was born 20 December 1910, Culleoka, Tennessee.

He died 21 August 1994, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas.

Marjorie & Carlyle Hight had 3 daughters.

Marjorie graduated valedictorian from Sunset High School in Dallas, Texas, in January 1930. Carlyle graduated from the same school in June 1930 as salutatorian. The two of them dated in their last year of high school, and in fact, double-dated with W.L. Massey and his girl friend. She married Carlyle in 1934, and she married W.L. in 1981 (after meeting him again for the 50th reunion of their high school class). She pursued a career in bookkeeping, working for several companies. She specially enjoyed her years as associate director of the Publications Office at Southern Methodist University. In 1976 she was recognized with the Favorite Staff Person Award presented by students and staff at SMU.

She was an active member of East Dallas Christian Church, participating in the women's programs and the Williams Couples Class there. She was also a member of several book clubs, AARP and other community organizations. She loved gardening and maintained a beautiful yard and floral landscape. She also enjoyed traveling, and went to Europe on several art study trips led by her son-in-law, Ken Lawrence. She also travelled extensively in the United States with her AARP group. She was an expert in needlework.

Marjorie had Parkinson's Disease in her later years, and ultimately died from complications due to that disease.

Carlyle was a salesman, working for life insurance companies, and for Balfour and Josten's companies. He was an avid photographer, and as a consequence, we have many photographs of people in our family. He was an active member of East Dallas Christian Church and various community organizations. He had many interests – boating, woodworking, oil painting, and ceramics – in addition to photography. He died in a car wreck near San Jose, California, in 1976.

2) **Alfred Lester ALLISON, Jr.**

born: 7 Mar 1917; Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

died: 1 Jan 1971, Henderson County, Texas

married: 1) **Hazel COUREGEOUS**; no children

2) **Patsy Jo POSTON**, 1 Nov 1953, Durant, Oklahoma

Alfred & Pat Allison had 2 children.

Alfred was a funeral director and worked for Sparkman-Brand Funeral Homes in Dallas, TX

3) **Glenn Edward ALLISON, Sr.**

born: 24 Jul 1926; d. 22 Oct 2002, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas (stroke)

died: 22 Oct 2002, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

buried: Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery; Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

married: Jean Gladness STARK, 8 Nov 1947, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Glenn & Jean Allison had 2 children.

Glenn served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, and then worked for the Post Office in Dallas. He was a supervisor at the main post office when he retired. Glenn served as Treasurer of NARFE Chapter 1139 (National Association of Retired Federal Employees) and was a member of Rosemont Christian Church.