

Stately Allison House Is Marked By Classic Beauty

Evening Herald - Nov. 4, 1949.

Colonial Residence
Near Sharon One Of
Loveliest In County

By Elizabeth Reed

The stately Colonial Allison house on Clark's Fork near Sharon not only holds memories within its walls but is today one of the most beautiful old homes of the county.

Built in 1860 by Dr. Robert Turner Allison, the home has belonged to members of the Allison family all the years since 1860 until 1948 when it was sold to A. C. Brackett and his son, Ruffin Brackett of Casar, N. C.

It would be hard to find anywhere a country home of more pleasing classic lines or one built of more durable materials than this old home constructed as the clouds of war were rising over the South.

Its spacious verandas, its wide and inviting doors, immense rooms and general setting lend an atmosphere of hospitality that remains even to this day. Older people tell of the gay times that were had in former days beneath its hospitable roof.

Early Family History

Hugh Allison, grandfather of Dr. Robert Turner Allison was the first of the family to come to the new world. He was born in 1714 and arrived in America from Scotland September 13, 1736 at the age of 22. After a few years in Harford county, Maryland he married Margaret Hope and moved to South Carolina in 1769 where he settled on the upper waters of Bullock Creek. He died March 7, 1799 and is doubtless buried in Beersheba Cemetery, although his grave is not marked.

Dr. Robert Turner Allison's grandmother, Margaret Hope Allison was the daughter of James Thomas Hope of Scotland who died in 1846. Date of Margaret's birth and death are unknown.

Dr. Allison was fully occupied with a large plantation and with an extensive practice yet he found time to render a valuable public service to his county. In 1873 he was elected to the state legislature from York county and in 1860 he was a signer of the Ordinance of Secession from the county.

Dr. Allison was born in 1798 at Henry's Knob and died in 1882 at the age of 85. He is buried in the old Beersheba church yard, the church where for many years he had served as a ruling elder.

His wife, Martha Burnett Clinton was born April 23, 1803, the daughter of Joseph Clinton and Mary Burnett. She died July 3, 1877 and is buried at Beersheba church.

When their son Rufus Maitland Allison returned from the War Between the States he married L. Belle Byars and went with his bride to live in the old house and care for his aged parents. For many years Mrs. Robert Turner Allison was an invalid.

Two of Dr. Robert Turner Allison's sons became physicians. Dr. J. W. Allison who practiced in the Hickory Grove community and Dr. James B. Allison who in his early years practiced in York.



THE STately OLD ALLISON HOUSE on Clark's Fork near Sharon is one of the outstanding old homes of the county. It was built in 1860. — (Herald Staff Photo)

Inherited Home

Rufus Maitland Allison inherited the beautiful old home and lived there until his death on November 29, 1902. He was born February 25, 1836, the son of Robert Turner and Mrs. Martha Burnett Clinton Allison. He assisted his father on the old Allison plantation in western York County and later operated the large family estate left to him at his father's death. He served throughout the War Between the States and participated in the battles of Fredericksburg, Cold Harbor, Bull Run and Gettysburg. He was at Appomattox Courthouse when Lee surrendered. He is buried in Bethesda Presbyterian Church cemetery.

His wife, L. Belle Byars Allison, was born February 24, 1860, the daughter of Theodore Byars and Amanda Smith Byars. She lived on the Byars plantation near Sharon and attended school at the Female College at Rome, Ga. She married Rufus Maitland Allison and lived at the old Allison plantation until her death in 1947.

The Allison family has given to the state and nation a number of illustrious men. Among them have been Gen. James B. Allison of the U. S. Army, now retired and living in York; He was retired in 1937 with the rank of Major-General. Other descendants of the Dr. Allison who now live in York are Miss Sudie Allison and Mrs. Mary Allison Blodgett.

Other members of the family include the late Dr. Glenn Allison, X-ray specialist, and Major Robert T. Allison, both great grandsons of the builder of the home.

A great-great-granddaughter of the builder of the home is Carol Glenn, (Mrs. Eugene List), one of

the noted violinists of the country.

Information for this story has been furnished by Mrs. Wade S. Buice of Anderson, the former Miss Elizabeth Allison, granddaughter of the builder of the home.

For many years Mrs. L. Belle Allison and her daughter Miss Sallie Allison lived alone in the lovely old home. Mrs. Allison was an invalid for four years and confined to her bed. Miss Sallie Allison later went to Honea Path to live with her sister and died there August 29, 1949 leaving only Mrs. Buice and a brother, Dr. D. T. Allison, who lives in Honea Path.

The House

The perfect condition of the home today shows that only the best materials was used in its construction. The 12 rooms with high ceilings and spacious in size could accommodate party lovers from the countryside in those earlier days around the turn of the century.

In contrast with the ornate homes of a few years earlier, the house is simple in design and without ornamentation. The plain china door-knobs are in marked contrast with some of an earlier period. The mantels and windows and door frames are very plain in design.

The Old Dam

One of the most interesting features of the large 600 acre plantation is the dam of masonry and stones across Clark's Fork a short distance from the house. Fully 10 feet across and several hundreds of feet in length the dam formerly was used to operate a cotton gin. In the early days of its construction it was also probably used to operate a corn mill. It was built of slave labor about the time of the building of the house.

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