

## **MS-439, Major General Henry Tureman Allen Collection**

**Collection Number:** MS-439

**Title:** Major General Henry Tureman Allen Collection

**Dates:** 1891 - 1985

**Creator:** Andrews Family

### **Summary/Abstract:**

Major General Henry T. Allen was an officer in the U.S. Army from 1882 to 1923. He fought in the Spanish-American War and World War I. His daughter married Lieutenant General Frank Maxwell Andrews (See MS-440). General Allen was famous for his 1885 exploration of 15,000 miles of Alaskan wilderness in the Copper, Tanana, and Koyukuk River valleys. The collection is small, consisting of photographs of him and his children, along with a 1985 reprint of his 1885 Alaskan expedition report, and a book about his life.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** .2 linear feet

**Language(s):** English

### **Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-001, (937) 775-2092

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

### **Restrictions on Use:**

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

### **Preferred Citation:**

[Box #, Folder #], MS-439, Major General Henry Tureman Allen Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

### **Acquisition:**

The Major General Henry Tureman Allen Collection was deposited at Wright State University Special Collections and Archives by Jan Andrews Clark and Frank Maxwell Andrews III for a period of three years in January 2012. The deposit agreement may be cancelled by either party after January 1, 2015.

### **Related Material:**

MS-440, Lieutenant General Frank Maxwell Andrews Collection

MSS10504, Henry T. Allen Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Additional Sources:**

Twichell, Heath Jr. *Allen, The Biography of an Army Officer 1859-1930*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1974. (See File 5)

**Processed by:** John Armstrong, June 2012.

**Arrangement:** The collection consists of five folders.

**Biographical/Historical Note**

Henry Tureman Allen was born on April 13, 1859 in Sharpsburg, Kentucky. His parents were Susan (Shumate) and Sanford Allen. He was the thirteenth of fourteen children. After attending Peeks Mill Military Academy, he attended Georgetown College and graduated in 1878. He then transferred to the United States Military Academy at West Point where he graduated in 1882. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the cavalry and assigned to Alaska in 1884. Allen is most well-known for the expedition he led in 1885, which explored the Copper River, along with the Tanana and Koyukuk Rivers. In total, Allen and his expedition explored through roughly 15,000 miles of unexplored wilderness in only five months traveling 1,500 miles.

From 1888 to 1890, he worked as an instructor at West Point followed by a tour of duty in the old American West at Fort Keogh, Montana Territory where he guarded the Northern Pacific Railroad while it was under construction. This was followed by tours of duty as a military attaché to Russia (1890-1895) and Germany (1897-1898). When the Spanish-American War began, he was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment and participated in the Battle of El Caney in Cuba. In 1899, he was reassigned to the Philippines where he worked to suppress insurgents.

In 1907, then Major Allen returned to the United States. In 1910, he joined the Army General Staff as a cavalry expert. In August 1912 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and then in July 1916 he became a Colonel. He assumed command of the 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment and led them during the Punitive Expedition, in which Brigadier General John J. Pershing attempted to capture Pancho Villa.

After the United States entered World War I, Allen was promoted to Brigadier General in May 1917, and made a temporary Major General in command of the 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Camp Travis, Texas. In May 1918, his unit was reassigned to France where it participated in the final allied push along the St. Mihiel salient.

After the war, Allen was appointed commander of the American Forces in Germany in July 1919. From 1919 to 1923, he acted as military governor of the American zone of occupation around Coblenz. He was also a member of the Inter-Allied Rhineland and High Commission.

In 1923 he was promoted to the permanent rank of Major General. That same year he retired from the Army. Following his retirement, he lived in Washington, D.C., where he wrote two books about his time in the Rhineland. Allen served as the executive officer and Vice-President

of the American Olympic Committee for the 1924 Summer Olympics. In 1928, despite being nearly 70 years old, he was considered as a vice-presidential running mate for Democrat Al Smith.

General Allen died in Buena Vista Springs, Pennsylvania on August 29, 1930. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

### **Scope and Content**

Major General Henry T. Allen served 41 years in the U.S. Army from 1882 to 1923. During his career he served in a variety of posts including as an instructor at the United States Military Academy and as military attaché in both Russia and Germany. He was involved in a number of conflicts, including the Spanish-American War, the Punitive Expedition in Mexico to capture Pancho Villa, and World War I. The collection contains only five folders. The first two folders contain photographs of him and his children. The third folder contains a short biography of Allen. The fourth folder contains a reprint of his Alaskan expedition and the last folder contains a biography of his life. Researchers looking for more extensive information about General Allen should consult the “Henry T. Allen Papers” located at the Library of Congress.

### **Subject Terms**

#### **Persons/Families**

Allen, Henry T. (Henry Tureman), 1859-1930

#### **Organizations/Corporate Names**

United States. Army. Cavalry  
United States. Army

#### **Places**

Alaska  
Nashville (Tennessee)

#### **Subjects**

Military officers—American  
Armed forces - - Officers - - Biography  
Generals - - United States - - Biography  
Allen, Henry T. (Henry Tureman), 1859-1930. Report of an expedition to the  
Copper, Tananá, and Koyukuk rivers, in the territory of Alaska, in the year  
1885. Selections

#### **Material Types**

Books  
Photographs

#### **Occupations**

Generals  
Army officers

## Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Photographs – General Allen	Undated
	2	Photographs – General Allen’s Children	1891, 1895
	3	Biographical Information from American Biography	Undated
	4	Book – “An Expedition to The Copper, Tanana, and Koyukuk Rivers in 1885” by Lieutenant Henry T. Allen, Second United States Cavalry (Reprint of 1885 report)	1985
	5	Book – “Allen, The Biography of an Army Officer, 1859-1930” by Heath Twichell, Jr.	1974