

Greetings to all!

It has taken a bit longer to propose adding this branch to our ALLEN family tree than I either like or expected. Nevertheless, I am putting forward the following for consideration.

My goal was to find the family of William Nicholas ALLEN. The search starts with him in Devon, in the mid-1800's.

We know that William Nicholas ALLEN was married to Louisa MINHINNICK and that they had (at least) two sons: Thomas William ALLEN and William George ALLEN. (Please note, the photo attached below is only my guess, it is not confirmed to be William Nicholas ALLEN.)

The family as we know it so far, stands thus:

Ancestral Quest - Ourfamily Family

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Pedigree Family Name List Individual

William Nicholas ALLEN-160
B: 18 Jul 1821 - Devonport, Devon, England
M: 16 Dec 1849 - St Andrew, D, England
D: 16 Sep 1896 - Auckland, New Zealand

William Allen-508

Add'l Par/Rel Marriage (MRIN: 145)

William Nicholas ALLEN-160

Marriage (MRIN: 44)

Sarah -1141

Spouses (2)	Marriage Date	Status
Louisa MINHINNICK-161	16 Dec 1849	

Children	Birth/*BR Date	Rel
< 1. Thomas William ALLEN-103	21 Nov 1850	
< 2. William George ALLEN-162	29 Jul 1852	

Add Child <Ctrl+L>

For Help, press F1 C:\Users\...\ourfamily_v12.aq M: 2 C: 2 NUM

Our copy of the marriage record of William Nicholas ALLEN to Louisa MINNHINNICK indicates that William Nicholas had been married prior to his marriage to Louisa. Based on William Nicholas's age, the marriage would have been after civil registration was enacted in England and Wales in 1837.

1849. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church the				
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.
210	December 16 th	William Nicholas Allen	27	Widower
	10 1/2 9	Louisa Minnhinnick	23	Spinster

Prior to 1837, births, marriages, and deaths were recorded by each church. Several sources are available for the pre-1837 events depending on the denomination of the church. The LDS church has filmed and transcribed many of the early records. The information has also been transcribed by a number of UK family historical societies and copies and microfiche of original records are available for purchase from the Devon Record Office.

Fortunately for us, the FreeBMD Project (freebmd.rootsweb.com) has transcribed a great deal of the index to the marriage records and the entry was easy to find:



The transcription only contains the index, so the complete record was ordered from the Office of National Statistics and we learn that William Nicholas was married to Francenia Jane HOOPER on October 26th, 1845 in the Parish of East Stonehouse.

1845. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of East Stonehouse in the County of Devon								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
89	October 26 th 1845	William Nicholas Allen	Fullage	Widower	Labourer	14 East Street	William Allen	Labourer
		Francenia Jane Hooper	Fullage	Spinster	—	Victoria Yard	George Hooper	Surgeon

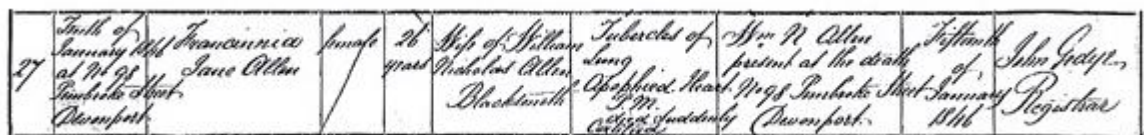
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, after Banns by me, *J. G. Campbell, Vicar.*

This Marriage solemnized between us, *William Nicholas Allen* and *Francenia Jane Hooper* in the Presence of us, *George Hooper* and *John Lammoucy* 1845

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of East Stonehouse
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 30th day of January 2007

While William Nicholas is at a different address than when he marries Louisa, he is still in the same area of Plymouth. This time he is noted as a *Bachelor* and so we do not have to look for any other previous marriages. His father is named as William ALLEN and two occupations are offered for the senior William: *Labourer* (as above) and *Engineer* (on the certificate of William Nicholas and Louisa).

William Nicholas and Francinnia Jane were married only a very short time. She died suddenly, not quite three months after their marriage, of *Tubercles of [the] Lung*.



Based on the death record, we can see that William Nicholas, in early 1846, is a *Blacksmith* and is living in the sub-district of Clowance and district of Stoke Damerel.

At this point, the documents that we have on hand to determine William Nicholas's age are as follows:

- Marriage to Louisa in December of 1849, age given as 27 (born abt 1822)
- Census in March 1851, age given as 29 (born abt 1821/1822)
- Auckland Hospital Admission in July 1896, age given as 74 (born abt 1821/1822)
- Auckland Hospital Application for Relief in Sept 1896, age given as 76 (born abt 1820/1821)
- (While he is likely listed in several Electoral Rolls in Auckland, I do not have any age indicated.)

Going backward one step at a time, the next civil registration milestone to search would be the 1841 census – four and one-half years before his marriage to Francinnia Jane. However, I was also searching in the other direction by looking for a birth or christening record for William Nicholas.

Back in 2003, I had been sent a possible baptism record transcription for William Nicholas from another Devon researcher. She had found the entry indexed by the Devon Family Historical Society and gave me the following:

William Nicholas ALLEN was baptized at Plymouth St Andrew 23 Sept 1821, said to be born 18 Jul 1821, son of William, a Sawyer in the dockyard, & Grace, of Plymouth Dock.

But, when I ordered ALLEN transcription records directly from the Devon Family Historical Society, I didn't find the information the same – the transcription actually had *Sarah* as the mother instead of *Grace*. I contacted the same researcher again by email, and when she consulted her sources again, she apologized profusely and said that, yes, the mother's name should have been *Sarah*.

So gathering the possible children of fathers named William ALLEN and mothers named Sarah, the following list of christenings was assembled:

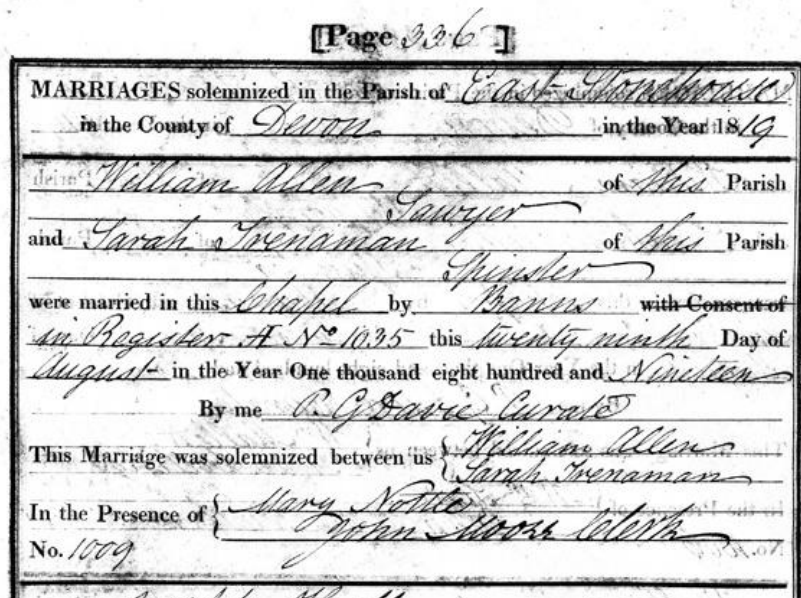
Christening	Child	Note	Father's Occupation	Abode
1813-03-28	Thomasine		Labourer	Plymouth St Andrew
1816-01-06	Rich'd Lee		Quarryman	Plymouth St Andrew
1816-01-06	Tho's	(private)	Quarryman	Plymouth St Andrew
1819-10-03	Sarah		Labourer	Plymouth St Andrew
1820-06-11	George William Trenaman		Sawyer	Stoke Damerel
1821-05-13	Samuel		Labourer	Plymouth St Andrew
1821-09-23	William Nicholas	(b 18 Jul 1821)	Sawyer	Plymouth St Andrew
1823-05-05	Rebecca Ann Wills	(b 1 Apr 1823)	Sawyer	
1826-02-06	Eliza Sarah Jackman	(9 Dec 1825)	Sawyer	
1827-12-09	William Robert Blight		Mariner	Stoke Damerel
1828-07-20	Mary Ann		Quarryman	Plymouth St Andrew
1830-06-07	Catherine Eliza	(11 Jan 1830)	Seaman	
1832-10-24	Richard James Harvey		Mariner	Stoke Damerel

A much shorter list of possible marriages in the same timeframe and general geographic area was also put together, and gave the following possibilities:

Groom	Bride	Date	Location
ALLEN, William	LEE, Sarah	1807-06-16	Lamerton
ALLEN, William	REX, Sarah	1815-06-21	Exeter St Mary Major
ALLEN, William	TRENAMAN, Sarah	1819-08-29	East Stonehouse
ALLEN, William	DUDLEY, Sarah	1823-11-24	Stoke Damerel

I ordered copies of the four marriages, and only one William ALLEN had the occupation of Sawyer which would fit with the baptism record for William Nicholas – the marriage between William ALLEN and Sarah TRENAMAN.

The marriage record indicates that they were married by



Banns. I was hopeful that the Banns Book would also be available so that I could order a copy. Unfortunately, I have been told that the Banns Book no longer exists by the Devon Record Office.

So with a possible christening and marriage date for his parents, I started searching the 1841 Devon census. I was looking for a William (Nicholas) ALLEN who was between 19-21 years old, hopefully still living in the household of an older William and Sarah ALLEN in the Plymouth area.

The 1841 census was taken in early June. The instruction for the census was not to record the actual age of a person if they were between 15 and 65, but rather to round downwards to the nearest 5 years. Therefore, our William Nicholas ALLEN would have been recorded as '15 years' since he would have only been 19 years old in June of 1821.

11 17

PLACE	HOUSES Uninhabited or Inhabited	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
			Males	Females		In same County	Whether Born in this Parish or Foreign Parts
Foot St		Thomas Trenaman	20				4
		Amelia do	2				4
do	1	William Allen	50		Sawyer		4
		William do	15		Smith App.		4
		Rebecca do	15				4
		Eliza do	15				4
do	1	Thomas Dicker	50		Shepherd		4
		Amelia do	50				4
		Thomas do	15		Ship App.		4
		Christopher do	14				4
		Amelia do	12				4
		Ann do	9				4
		Williamette Briggs	1				4
do	1	Thomas Perry	45		Taylor		4

Again, there are some societies and organizations that have indexed the 1841 census – and using a combination of their indexes and my copy of the census, I was able to reduce the amount of time spent searching for our family and finally landed on this ALLEN family that I think is 'ours'.

The senior William ALLEN's occupation is Sawyer and the William, 15, is a Smith apprentice. While relationships are not indicated in the census, one would probably assume that the other children in the family are siblings.

There is no Sarah in the household, but the names and ages of the girls fit with

names and ages from the table on the previous page which leads me to propose the following family structure:

William ALLEN and Sarah TRENAMAN married the 29th of August, 1819 in East Stonehouse. They have the following children:

1. George William Trenaman ALLEN. Christened 11 Jun 1820 in Stoke Damerel.

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Stoke Damerel, in the County of Devon, in the Year of our Lord God, 1820

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
June 7 1820	Sarah	William	Scott	Dock	Baker	Wm. Keen
		Elizabeth				Annale
No 105	11	George	Allen	Dock	Sawyer	John Hawker
		William				Linale
No 106	11	John				John Hawker

- William Nicholas ALLEN. Christened 23 Sep 1821 in the Parish of Saint Andrew in Plymouth, said to be born 21 Jul 1821.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Saint Andrew in Plym^o</i> in the County of <i>Devon</i> in the Year 1821						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1821. <i>September</i> 23	<i>William</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>Learle</i>	<i>Stonehouse</i>	<i>Seaman</i>	<i>Rev. W. Barker for Gandy</i>
No. 2121.	<i>son of Mary</i>					
23	<i>William Nicholas</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>Allen</i>	<i>Plym^o Dock</i>	<i>Sawyer Dock Yard</i>	<i>Rev. W. Barker for Gandy</i>
No. 2122.	<i>son of Sarah</i>		<i>said to be born 13th July 1821.</i>			

- Rebecca Ann Wills ALLEN. Born 1 Apr 1823 and christened 5 May 1823 in the Parish of Stoke Damerel. (LDS film 883909, Morrice St – Wesleyan, Devonport, Devon, England)

<i>April</i> <i>1: 1823</i>	<i>May 5th</i> <i>1823</i>	<i>Rebecca</i> <i>Wills</i>	<i>William</i> <i>Sarah</i>	<i>Allen</i>	<i>Sawyer</i>
No. 674					

- Eliza Sarah Jackman ALLEN. born 9 Dec 1825 and christened 6 Feb 1826 in the Parish of Stoke Damerel. (LDS film 883909, Morrice St – Wesleyan, Devonport, Devon, England)

<i>1825</i> <i>December</i> <i>9th</i>	<i>Feb 6th</i> <i>1826</i>	<i>Eliza</i> <i>Sarah</i> <i>Jackman</i>	<i>William</i> <i>Sarah</i>	<i>Allen</i>	<i>Sawyer</i>
No. 1975					

The William ALLEN listed on Fort Street in the 1841 census (the same as I am proposing is the father of *our* William Nicholas ALLEN), died on the 9th of September, 1844. The information on his death certificate is given by Amelia DUSTIN – who is recorded living next to him in 1841 on Fort Street.

1844	Month of September	William Allen	Male	58	Sawyer	depose of his Parish of Gland	Amelia Dustin with present at the death of	No 15 Fort Street Devonport	Sept 9th 1844 Register
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My next task will be to follow up on Sarah TRENAMAN and in so doing, hope that I can also get a lead on the ancestry of the next William ALLEN, father of William Nicholas ALLEN.

- There is a death record for a Sarah ALLEN of Mount Street, 30 years of age, in Stoke Damerel, who died October 8th, 1827 which might be a possible match and would explain why there are no children younger than 15 in the family on the 1841 census.
- There is also a TRENAMAN family living very close to the ALLENS in 1841 who might be related.
- Interestingly enough, in just browsing various TRENAMAN entries, I see that the name *Nicholas* occurs in some of the family lines.
- In addition, there is a LDS transcribed christening record *28 Mar 1797 for Sarah Jackman TRENAMAN, daughter of George and Ann TRENAMAN said to be born 24 Feb 1797.*

So there is no shortage of places to start looking. I never complain about that!