

Mary Elizabeth Allen 1812 - 1842
(Bulmer Churchyard Plan number 106)

Mary Elizabeth Allen (née Pung) was the only child of Thomas Pung and Mary Pung (née Wilsmore). She was baptised in Bulmer church and her parents were later buried in the Bulmer churchyard.

Thomas Pung owned Blackhorse Farm in Bulmer (the current Old Vicarage forms part of that land) and it is likely that Mary grew up there. However, her mother died when she was only about 11 years old, so she and her father probably became very close.

In 1832 Mary married Robert Alfred Allen, a merchant from Ballingdon, in Bulmer church. They then lived in Ballingdon and had 6 children; Thomas, Mary, Catherine, Elliston Alfred, Robert & Laura Howard. One of the children, Catherine or Katherine, who was the twin sister of Mary, sadly died in infancy and is buried with her mother.

September 5th 1832

Married on Friday last at Bulmer church, Robert Allen of Ballingdon to Mary Elizabeth, only daughter of Thomas Pung of Bulmer.

Bury & Norwich Post newspaper archive

The Allen family lived in Ballingdon House on Ballingdon Street (now no 93), located close to the River Stour and Sudbury. The River Stour became an important part of Robert A Allen's brick making and other businesses. Their sons, Elliston and Robert, took over their father's businesses when they came of age and they became the largest brickmakers in the area.

It was sad that Mary didn't see her sons succeed in their father's business or see any of her children grow and flourish. Aged 30, she died when the eldest, Thomas Pung Allen, was only 7 years old. He is also buried with her.

June 15th 1842 Deaths –

Mrs Allen beloved wife of Robert Allen, merchant of Ballingdon, only daughter of Mr Thomas Pung of Bulmer, leaving five small children to mourn their loss.

Sudbury Post newspaper archive

Her early death must have been devastating for the whole family, especially her father, who had already lost his wife when she was so young.

Mary's 3rd son, Robert is also buried in the Bulmer churchyard in a separate plot with his wife, Louisa. -----see newspaper clippings below-----

Essex Standard 8th September 1832

MARRIAGES.

31st ult. at Bulmer, R. A. Allen, Esq. of Ballingdon, to Mary Elizabeth, only daughter of Thomas Pung, Esq. of Bulmer.

Chelmsford Chronicle 10th June 1842 - Deaths:

4th inst. Mrs. Allen, wife of Mr. Robert Allen, merchant, of Ballingdon, and only daughter of Thomas Pung, Esq. of Bulmer, leaving five children to lament their irreparable loss.

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Jon Allen 2013