

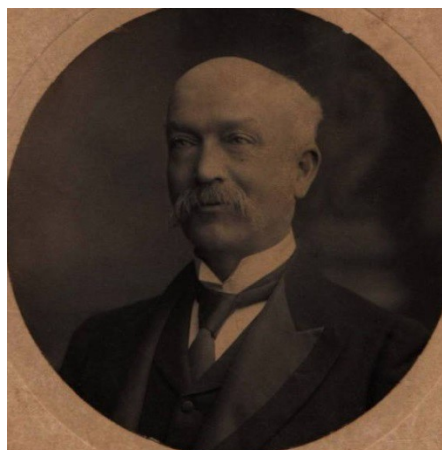
Robert Allen 1840 - 1905
(Bulmer Churchyard Plan number 183)

Robert Allen was the 3rd son of Robert Alfred Allen of Ballingdon and Mary Allen (née Pung) of Bulmer. He was born in Ballingdon where he lived with his parents and 4 siblings, Thomas, Mary, Elliston & Laura.

Robert's mother died when he was not yet 2 years old, so he probably didn't remember her and was, instead, brought up by his stepmother, Henrietta Eliza Allen (née Wylie) who had 7 more children.

Robert's father was a successful businessman owning a large brickworks in Ballingdon, a maltings and trading in raw materials. This enabled young Robert and his brother, Elliston, to get a good education at prep school at St Catherine's Hermitage, Bath and then Ipswich School, Ipswich.

In 1856, when Robert was only 15, his father died suddenly. It was therefore left to his uncle, William Boulnois, to run the family business, R. A. Allen & Sons, until Robert and Elliston came of age to run it themselves.



Robert Allen

Their bricks were in great demand, especially the 'suffolk whites', and millions were sent to London via barges on the River Stour. The return journey brought back coal. Many well-known buildings were built using Allen bricks, such as the Royal Albert Hall and St Pancras Station.

In 1865 Robert married Louisa Harriet Whitehead and they lived in *The Cedars* (now *Dower House*) in Bulmer. They had 7 children (Beatrice, Mary, Annie, Constance, Robert, Harold & Norman), all baptised in Bulmer church, the first of which died in infancy.

In January 1877, aged only 30, Robert's wife, Louisa died. The following year, he married his second wife, Tryphena Luke who had been his children's Governess. The couple had 7 more children (Vero, Helen, Edmund, Oliver, Enid, Geoffrey & Charles) the 2nd, 3rd and 4th born at *The Cedars*.

December 11th 1877

As Mr R. Allen of the Cedars, Bulmer, was in the hunting field following the hounds at Hawkedon near Clare he attempted to jump a ditch when his horse slipped, he managed to regain his feet but the frightened horse trampled him, inflicting severe injuries with several ribs fractured and his arm broken in three places

Bury & Norwich Post (newspaper archive)

In around 1884, the family moved to Halstead.

When Robert died in 1905, aged 65, he was buried in the Bulmer churchyard interred with his first wife, Louisa. The congregation included local people (see newspaper article).

Robert's mother and one of his daughter's Annie Kathleen Allen are also buried in the Bulmer churchyard.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. R. ALLEN, J.P.

We regret to state that Mr. Robert Allen, J.P., of Greenstead Hall, Halstead, a member of the well-known firm of Messrs. Allen and Son, merchants, of Sudbury, died suddenly early on Friday. The deceased gentleman, shortly after retiring to rest, on the Thursday, was seized with heart trouble. Dr. Roberts, of Halstead, attended him, and Mr. Allen seemed to get over the attack. He, however, succumbed to a second attack at about 12.30. Mr. Allen had been to Sudbury on business during the day, and was looking forward to a day's shooting on Friday. He was 65 years of age. He leaves a widow and a large family, most of whom are grown up.

The deceased had suffered from an affection of the heart for ten or twelve years. Four or five years ago Mr. and Mrs. Allen were thrown out of their dogcart while returning from Sudbury, and the deceased then sustained somewhat severe injuries.

Mr. Allen was well known throughout the district, and was much esteemed. In addition to taking an active part in the management of his Sudbury business, he was considerably interested in agriculture, farming a large area of land at Houghton's Hall, near Clare. He occasionally attended the sittings of the Halstead Bench. For many years he had been Vicar's warden at Greenstead Green Church, in which both he and the members of his family took much interest. He was also one of the school managers in that parish. He had been twice married.

The funeral took place on Tuesday at Bulmer churchyard, where the remains of Mr. Allen's first wife are buried. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. E. Andrewes, of Harlow. The mourners present were the children, sons-in-law, nephews, Mr. Elliston Allen (brother), Col. Twyman (brother-in-law), Mr. Sydney Pitt (solicitor), Mr. Allan Mumford, Mr. Frank Boggis, and Mr. Wm. Smith. Among the large congregation at the church were the Revds. A. P. Pannell, O. E. Rymond, and T. Myers, Messrs. T. Goodchild, C. E. Mauldon, E. Turpin, B. Courtauld, H. C. Canham, A. H. Canham, C. E. Brewster, S. Moger, F. M. Wallis, R. Minter, G. Brown, W. Clark, E. Firmin, E. G. Rogers, R. Morton, M. Stephenson, H. Brewster, R. E. Vaizey, F. A. Vaizey, Vere W. Taylor, J. Hardy, T. F. Miller, E. H. Knight, H. B. Dickenson, P. Dupont, Palmer, A. J. Grimwade, G. Spurgeon, W. Nott, D. Gardiner, Dr. Holden, C. Ray, H. Payne, W. Prigg, G. P. Weybrew, J. B. Burlingham, R. E. Godbold, G. Chickall, and G. English.

ACCIDENT TO MR. ROBERT ALLEN.—We regret to find that Mr. R. Allen, of the Cedars, Bulmer met with a very severe accident in the hunting-field last Saturday. He was following the hounds at Hawkedon, near Clare, when, in attempting to jump a ditch, his horse slipped on the further edge and fell, throwing his rider. Mr. Allen, however, immediately gained his feet, and seizing the reins, tried to stop the frightened animal; but it knocked him down and trampled on him, inflicting severe injuries. It was afterwards found that Mr. Allen's right arm was fractured in three places, and that several of his ribs were broken. With careful medical attention it is hoped he will soon recover.

Newspaper cutting references;

1. Death of Robert Allen - Chelmsford Chronicle 13th October 1905. Many local people attended and these are listed in this article.
2. Accident to Robert Allen - Essex Standard 7th December 1877

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Jon Allen 2013