

Colonel Alonson Allen



Colonel Alonson Allen - born Bristol, VT., August 22, 1800; died Fairhaven, VT., September 5, 1878.

Alonson Allen was the first cousin of General Ethan Allen, who led the Green Mountain Boys against the British in the Revolutionary War.

That Colonel Allen was the pioneer in the slate industry of Vermont is not questioned. He was well informed upon the questions of the day. He was a ready and forcible speaker, whether discussing political platforms, advocating social reforms or expounding denominational customs and polity. He had been in Fairhaven but five years when he was, in 1841, elected to the State Senate, and again in the succeeding year and also again in 1854 and 1855. He encouraged and assisted in the building of the Methodist Church in 1844.

All through life he was an earnest advocate of every real reform – intemperance, slavery and all other social evils experienced his hard and continues blows. As early as 1834, we find him earnestly advocating in public addresses the temperance and African colonization causes. His rare qualities of heart were even more apparent than those of his mind – sincerity, kindness, affection, cheerfulness, generosity. A mind judicial in its cast and yet adventurous in its conceptions, of knightly boldness and courage, there was an unusual blending of conservatism and radicalism; a judgment of uncommon clearness and penetration; a will ready to cope with obstacles or outride disaster; of unflinching integrity; of an elastic and genial temper, he was grandly equipped for the place he occupied.

Few men, if any, have so indelibly left their impress upon the history of any town as did Colonel Allen of Fairhaven and indeed the western portion of Rutland County. His more than forty-two years of residence were years of incessant and herculean labor.