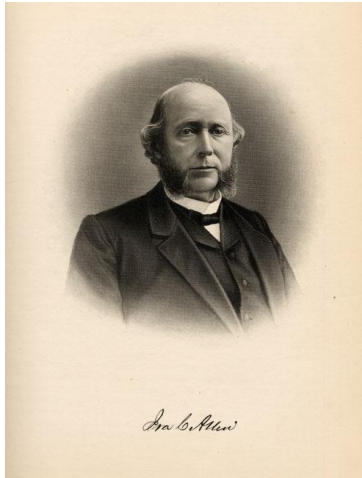


Ira C. Allen



Honorable Ira C. Allen - born Bristol, VT., April 4, 1816; died Fairhaven, VT., August 7, 1889.

Ira C. Allen was a cousin of General Ethan Allen and the nephew of Colonel Alonson Allen.

The Hon. Ira C. Allen, founder and president of the Allen National Bank of Fairhaven, Vt., is a fair type of the energy, industry, frugality and thrift of the better class of New England business men. The culture and habits born of privation and toil, with the moral and religious culture of a right home life, are a more substantial foundation for a successful life than an inherited fortune.

He entered the country store of his uncle, Alonson Allen, Livingston county, N.Y., in 1835, and the following year removed with him to Fairhaven, Vt. where he has since resided. He continued in the employment of his uncle until 1846, when he was received as a partner under the firm name of A. & I.C. Allen. In 1851 he purchased of his uncle one-fourth interest in the marble business of Allen & Adams, the new firm being Allen, Adams & Co. He was one of the projectors and also one of the ten original subscribers to the capital stock of the First National Bank of this place; has officiated there as director, vice-president and president. He was a prominent promoter and investor in the stock of the Fairhaven Marble and Marbleized Slate Company.

In 1879, with a few other capitalists, he organized the Allen National Bank and was made its president. In addition to his business cares he has served two terms each as representative, 1861-62, and senator, 1867-68, in the State Legislature, with the same fidelity which has characterized his private business. He purchased of W.C. Kittredge, in 1866, his dwelling and land on the west side of the park and erected his marble residence in 1866-67. By 1867 Allen finished construction on the twenty-two room, 6,400-square-foot French Second Empire/Italianate mansion. On January 1, 1868 Allen and his family moved into the home. It was the first in Fairhaven to have electricity. Currently, the Ira C. Allen Mansion operates as the Marble Mansion Inn.