

William T. Allen was the father of Maude Marelda Allen.

Maude Marelda Allen was the mother of Evelyn Maud Berglund.

Evelyn Maud Berglund was the mother of 7 children:

Richard Wood Grinnell, June Robin Grinnell, George Allen Grinnell, Hilda Mary Grinnell, Evelyn Louise Biederman, Rosella Marelda Shore and Edward James Shore.

William T. Allen was the son of Andrew Brumwell Allen and Delilia Ann Wendell. He was born the 18th of December, 1852, in Gallipolis, Ohio, a small town on the west side of the Ohio River. To the east across the river lies West Virginia, where his father was born.

About 1874 he married Margaret "Maggie" Estelle Wilson. Their first son, Clark W. Allen, 1874 was born in Ohio. The 1880 census shows the family living in Hamburg, Iowa. Earnest P. Allen, the second son was born there in March 1880. Clark, their 5 year-old son died there October 22, 1880.

William, Maggie and Earnest continued moving west. Their third child, Grace, was born February 16, 1882, in Iowa.

The next 4 children, Lully, 1884; Maude, 1886; Wilbur, 1888 and Edna, 1890, were all born in Wyoming. The youngest child, Nadine Leona Allen was born November 19, 1894, in Milton, Oregon, near Walla Walla, Washington.

The 1900 census lists the family living in Vacaville, California. Listed are: WT Allen, 49; his wife, ME Allen, 43; and 7 children, ages 18 to 6.

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9GG-S38>

The 1900 census lists W T Allen as a photographer. His son Earnest is listed as a musician. This census lists Grace as born in Wyoming although others list her birth as in Iowa. This census also confirms Lully was born in 1884 and was 16 at the time of the census.

Maude Marelda Allen, was married March 21, 1904, to Gene Angelo Grove and Earnest was married December 21, 1904 to Annie Rosina Leaves. They both were living in Vallejo, California in 1906.

By 1906 William Thomas Allen was living in San Francisco. He and his family survived the great earthquake and fire.

William wrote the following letter to his younger sister Flora Ann, who was then living in Ohio and married to Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Pease. Flora became deaf at age 7 as the result of having spotted fever.

Caldwell, Idaho
May 21, 1906

Mrs. Flora Pease,

Dear Sister

Emma¹ has just sent me your letter of April 29th to her, inquiring about us, yes, Flora, we were all in midst of the great San Francisco earth quake and fire but God answered our prayers and delivered us all alive, but we lost our earthly possessions, but let them go. Thank God for our lives.

There were fourteen of us all together; my own family; myself, wife Edna², Milton³, Mildred⁴ and Nadine⁵ all at home. Then Grace⁶, our oldest married daughter and her husband and three young children lived a block and a half from us, and then there was Lille⁷, our next oldest daughter and her husband and two young children. They lived two blocks and a half from us. We lived right in the heart of the city and were very prosperous.

My wife was running one of the largest dressmaking shops in the city and I had a large number of music pupils: Some taking piano lessons, some violin, some on the mandolin, some on the guitar, and some singing lessons and was also tuning and repairing piano, organ and other instruments, so that I was busy all of the time.

Milton our 18 year old boy at home had a steady position, running an elevator for a large wholesale house in the city, so that we were never more prosperous in our lives than we were in San Francisco, and were never so will content and we are mourning the loss of our San Francisco home. But we will probably never go back there to live for that terrible experience can never be forgotten in this life:

On Wednesday morning, April 18th about 11 minutes after 5'o'clock, we were suddenly awakened out of a sound sleep, by a terrific report as that of a cannon in our own room and only about 2 seconds later by a sudden heavy jerking and swinging of the building from side to side for about two or 3 minutes and the rocking the house was so severe that no

¹ Probably his sister, Laura Emma Allen, b. 18 Oct 1865, Van Wert, Ohio.

² His daughter, Edna Irene Allen, b. 30 June 1890, in Wyoming. Edna would have been 15 years old at the time.

³ There is no known record of a son named Milton.

⁴ This is likely a mis-transcription of Wilfred, the otherwise not mentioned 18 year-old son, Wilbur Wilfred Allen.

⁵ Nadine Leona Allen, youngest child of William and Margaret. Born November, 19, 1894, she would have been 11 at the time of this letter.

⁶ Grace M. Allen, married Harvey Milton Lambert December 13th 1900. At the time of the earthquake they had two sons, Russell E. Lambert, b. 1902 in California and Gordon Earl Lambert, b. 1903, California. A third unknown child is mentioned in this letter. The 1910 census, enumerated 22 April 1910, shows the family living in Portland, Oregon. Grace Lambert, 27, is listed as "Head H-ot" [Husband out of town ?] Also listed, three children: Russell E, 7, CA, Gorden, 6, CA and Grace, 3, Oregon.

⁷ Lilly, more often spelled Lully, was born in May 1884, would have been 22 at the time of this letter.

one could stand up in the room. We did not attempt to get out of bed while the house rocked so, but we expected to be killed every second; it was terror to think of a certain death and not know how it would be.

So we asked the Lord to save us and our families: and soon as the house quit shaking, we all got up and half-dressed the best we could and ran downstairs into the street for we were living in the middle flat of a three story frame building and when we got into the street, there were hundreds of half-naked men, women and children; some crying, some screaming, some swearing and some praying, and everybody doing their best to keep out of the way of live wires, falling buildings and frantic teams, running fire wagons, It was almost impossible to get through the streets anyhow on account of tumbled down buildings and torn up sidewalks.

The first thing I did when I got my family out of the building alive was to see if Grace and Lillie and their families were dead or alive. So I started out and found Grace and her family had safely escaped from their building while nearly all in the flat below them were killed. I thanked God that so much of my prayer was answered.

Then I ran as fast as I could to see if Lillie and her family had gotten out alive. When I got there, I praised God with my whole heart, for they were all spared. So I got them all together and told them not to separate for anything. By this time fire was raging almost every block around us. So we said we would save everything we possibly could. So we went back in our houses and dressed the best we could and got a few things out that we could carry from one block to another, then came the fire from every direction. There was no water to be had as the earth quake had torn up all the water pipes. So the fire engines were of no use, in less than two hours from the time of the earth quake, half of the city was hopelessly burning.

We were forced to move on from block to block as hard as we could all walk, without food or water and two young bottle babies in the crowd, crying for milk. So we struggled all that day till about two o'clock at night, all exhausted, worn out and faint with hunger and fatigue, we found a place in the suburbs of San Francisco where we could stop for the night. As we retreated from the fire, we managed to gather up enough provisions from the burning stores to keep us from suffering from hunger.

Then we were camped for three days when our married son, Ernest, who lived in Vallejo 30 miles north of the city came to our rescue and took us all to Vallejo with him and cared for us there over 4 or 5 days.

When the railroad offered free passage to Portland, so we thought best to go to Portland. When we got to Portland, we found we could get passes to Caldwell Idaho, where my wife's' father and mother lives, and where we lived 12 years ago. So we thought we would be better off where we had some relations to help us (and so) Here we are with no help and we are sorry now, yes, very sorry for our friends here are friends except in time of need.

So we have decided to go back to Portland as soon as we can possibly earn enough to pay our fares back for we will never be content here. I just got a letter from George Watson and he said he cannot get money to

send to us to pay R.R. fare back, but if we could get back anyway he would do all in his power to help us get started in housekeeping and business again.

So we are going to do our best to get back as soon as possible. We are all well at present but very tired and weary. The month has been a great trial to us both materially and physically. We are broken up, no money, no property, no home, and but little prospects for a start in this place, But God has provided safety and we know he will not forsake us now, and so we'll leave it all with him and now Dear Sister, I have written this sketch of our earth quake experience to you but I am going to ask you to carefully preserve it and so that all the rest of our family and their connections get to read it and pass it around and finally back to you.

This written for the benefit of the whole family and I have only given a mini outline from our experience but there is not words enough in language combined to give any of the faintest idea of our real sensation and awfulness of situation except those who experienced that awful catastrophe of destruction, death, desolation, but God said "All things work together for good to them that love the Lord". So let us love the Lord and see the good and I believe the time is very close on hand when the whole world will experience similar things like San Francisco.

Until Christ shall appear and with a loud voice proclaim to the world, "This is my kingdom, Behold the Bridegroom cometh." May the Lord bless you all and keep you ready. Write and let us know how you all are getting along.

Give our love to mother and all.

Your Loving Brother, W.T. Allen- Caldwell, Canyon County, Idaho

After reading this letter some have asked, how would have Earnest found his parents and family among all the thousands of displaced refugees? It may have been that William found a working telegraph office south of San Francisco and sent a telegram to his son Earnest, specifying his location.

Earnest then would have borrowed or rented a team of horses and large wagon. In 1906 there were no bridges crossing San Francisco bay but ferry service was very good. Earnest would have driven the team onto the ferry in Vallejo and disembarked at the San Francisco ferry building. Then traveled south to the arranged meeting place. The wagon would have returned as it came, with Earnest, the 14 relatives and their scant belongings.

This was written in April 2016 based on what was known. This document may be revised as more information and sources become available. Richard W. Grinnell
<http://mayflowercharts.com/allen/>