

**The Life**  
**Annie Clementine Luke - Allen**  
**(1868-1924)**

**Annie Clementine Luke** was born on September 26, 1863 in South Fork, Pennsylvania. Her father **James Luke** was a Civil War hero, and he and his brother **Daniel Luke** were both prisoners-of-war ("According to Luke"). Annie's father died as a result of war injuries. Her mother, **Sarah (Lundy) Luke**, died in Johnstown, Pennsylvania around 1911.

Annie's twin, **Nicholas "Kinsley" Luke**, died young. Annie and **William Adolphus Allen** were married August 30, 1894 (We have a copy of their marriage certificate). **James Howard**, my dad, was born three years later in 1897. Annie always expected twins. They tell the story that when the doctor announced she had a boy, she asked: "Is that all?". So twins must have come from other parts of the family.

Annie worked as a bookkeeper for a family friend, **Robert Linton**. She was up in the attic looking for some records when the infamous Johnstown flood hit. She received a severe head injury when the roof fell in. A couple of days passed before her brother **William Luke** rowed up and rescued her. Annie's husband William used to tell the story that he rescued her and that was the beginning of their romance. The children believe that that was just nonsense, since he didn't even get into the city until days later. Though, it was a good story. She later accompanied the Linton's back to Dubois, and lived with them until her marriage. The Lintons were attendants at her wedding.

Years before Annie married William, she had been engaged to another young man in Johnstown. Once they went to the fair and had their fortunes told by a gypsy. The gypsy told Annie that she would be in a great disaster, and that she would marry but not to the young man she was with. It turned out that the young man she was with would die in the Johnstown flood! Annie never went to a fortune teller again.

Annie was "strict but fair," according to her daughter **Sarah E. Allen** who wrote a history of her mother. Annie was a great believer in the government, which could do no wrong. She was a Democrat, her husband a Republican. She liked an occasional glass of ale, but when prohibition started she wouldn't drink because it was against the law. Sunday observance was very strict in those days, so the children couldn't skate and couldn't sew or knit. Annie loved baseball but wouldn't attend when they started Sunday baseball. She got more lenient in later years, but never went to a Sunday movie or ball game.

Annie was an ardent Lutheran but broad minded about her friends. In those days people associated only with those of their own religion, but Annie liked people for themselves. She had many Catholic friends, but her daughter doesn't think she ever went inside a Catholic church.

One of the happiest times in her life was when the family lived in Delmar, New York. They enjoyed many activities, and belonged to a Euchre (a card game like bridge) club. They had a good time putting on amateur skits. And, of course, no drinking. Annie was president of the Missionary Society at her church, and worked for the Red Cross during World War I. She also taught knitting. Her daughter said she knitted better than anyone they knew, but mostly knitted socks and mittens.

Annie loved to dance, but her husband William didn't. When young people would come to the house and start dancing, Annie would join in. She was troubled by her husband's drinking, but no one ever heard her complain about him. She also loved fairs. The story goes that William asked Annie to go to the Altamount fair, she said she would love to. As they were sitting there having lunch, it occurred to them that it was their 25th Wedding Anniversary!

In 1924, four months after Annie's first grandchild, **Virginia**, was born to her son **James Howard Allen** and wife **Irene (Brown)**, Annie died. Her minister and her brother **Charles Luke** were in attendance.

The Allen children thought that the document "According to Luke" focused too much on the families of brothers **Daniel Luke** and **John Luke**, and not enough on the family of brother **James Luke**, Annie's father. Annie's mother **Sarah Anne (Lundy) Luke** was a lovely lady, who said she was descended from the Weaver family around the time of the Revolutionary War. She died in 1911 at the age of 86 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

The history of **Annie Clementine (Luke) Allen** was originally written in 1928 by her daughter **Sarah E. (Allen) Kneeland**, who was born in 1899. The document was passed down to Sarah's daughter, **Sally Anne Kneeland**, and to Sarah's niece, **Susan Allen Murtha**. This version has been written by **Mary Jane (Allen) Cain**, Sarah's niece and Annie's granddaughter October 20, 2003.

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