

The Family and Descendants of James Elbert Allen
By [Clarence Crocker](#)

From the early days of its founding and continuing for about a hundred years, the surname "Allen" was a prominent family name in the village of [Bivingsville-Glendale](#). James Elbert Allen, born December 28, 1872, son of John Allen, had married Miss. Lula Murray about 1894 and were living in [Glendale](#) with his brother in-law James E. Thompson. They became the parents of seven or more children. The family was faithful members of the [Glendale Methodist Church](#). Mr. Allen was a foreman in [Glendale Mills](#) for a number of years. He and his family were highly respected by all who knew them. They lived in the mill house located on Broadway Street for as long as this writer can remember.

Although census papers oft time gives wrong dates and misspell names, I have tried to copy the census papers as recorded. Where errors occur, I apologize. Asterisks indicate further information follows.

The 1900 Glendale Census listed the household as;
James Thompson 28, born June 1872, farmer Wife; Mattie 27, born October 1872
James Allen 26, born February 1874, brother in-law Wife; Lula 26, born May 1874
Children;
 Albert (Elbert) Allen 4, born April 1896 Edwin Allen 2, born April 1898

The 1910 Glendale Census shows James as a Foreman in the [Glendale Cotton Mill](#). He and Lula had been married 15 years.

The household was listed as;
James Allen 36, husband Wife; Lula 35
Their Children;
Elbert 14 Edwin 12 Pauline 9+-
Wilton 6 Beatrice 4 James Erwin 2

The 1920 Glendale Census listed the household as;
James E. Allen 46, husband/cotton mill Wife; Lula 45
Children;
Edwin C. 22, weaver Pauline 19, spooler *Wilton 17, card room
*Beatrice 14 *James Jr. 12 *Lois 9

The 1940 Glendale Census listed the household as;
James E. Allen 67, widower
Children;
*Edwin C. 41 *Erwin 32
*Pauline Allen Foster 40 Husband; Wells B. Foster 44
Grandchild; *Betty Lou Foster 14

Unfortunately, this writer was unable to find any death records on Pauline Foster.

The Family of Betty Lou Foster, daughter of Wells B. and Pauline Allen Foster

For a personal photo and family history click [Mill Office Personnel](#)

Howard S. Thomas died at the age of 69 in December 1989.

Betty Lou Scraggs Thomas died at the age of 82 in April 2008.

They are buried in the Greenlawn Memorial Gardens, Spartanburg, S. C.

The Family of Wilton Harold Allen, son of James Elbert and Lula Allen

Wilton H. Allen married Emma Bell Carter and they became the parents of one child. They lived in a Mill village house on the Glendale/Clifton road, now named Stifel Road. They were members of the [Glendale Baptist Church](#).

The 1940 Glendale Census listed the household as;

Wilton Allen 36, husband/weaver Wife; Emma 32, weaver

Their son; Wayne 3

Wilton Allen died at the age of 44.

Emmie Belle Carter Allen died at the age of 85

Both are buried in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).

Grave markers; Wilton Allen-May 26, 1903=July 11, 1947

Emma B. Allen- December 5, 1907=October 12, 1994

The Family of Wayne Carleton Allen, son of Wilton and Emma Bell Allen

Wayne Allen married Miss Nellie Gay Timms and they became the parents of one child, Tim Allen.

Wayne served in the U.S. Army and died in June of 1983 as a result of a heart attack and is buried in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).

Grave marker; Wayne Carleton Allen-February 8, 1938=June 4, 1983

The Family of Beatrice Allen Bagwell, daughter of James E. and Lula Allen

No records as to whom she married or if they had children were found, only a short obituary which only stated;

“Beatrice Allen Bagwell died at her home in Boiling Springs, S. C. on December 22, 1990, at 85 years of age. She was of the Methodist faith.”

The Family of James Erwin Allen, son of James Elbert and Lula Allen

James Erwin Allen married Virginia Virl Solesby, a Glendale native and they became the parents of one daughter, Virginia Clair Allen.

Erwin, as he was known and called, was the Paymaster at [Glendale Mills](#) for a number of years before going to Harley Bag Company where he worked in the office.

Viril was associated with a Spartanburg Bank. Following Erwin's death, Viril married a Mr. Webb and moved out of State.

James Erwin Allen, 55, died unexpected at his home February of 1964.

Virginia Viril Allen Webb died at age of 85 in March of 2004.

Both are buried in the Greenlawn Memorial Gardens.

Miss Lois Allen died at the age of 79 at her home in Spartanburg on December 10, 1989. A native of Glendale, she was the daughter of James Elbert and Lula Allen and was a member of the [Glendale Methodist Church](#).

Graveside services were held in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#) in which she is interred, conducted by Rev. Michael Henderson.

Grave marker; Lois Allen- July 11, 1910=December 10, 1989

All Census and *Spartanburg Herald/Journal* Obituaries, courtesy of Spartanburg County Library.

[Clarence E. Crocker](#), August 2012