

The first Allen to settle in south Florida was Geo. Dwight Allen, who had been U.S. Consul in Havana, Cuba, and lived in Key West in 1860. He was then U.S. Marshal and owned a drugstore in Key West.

William Smith Allen, brother of Geo. D. Allen, was then (1860) living in Jacksonville, Fla., with his wife and three small sons-- Geo. W., John William and Dwight A. Wm. S. Allen was a bookkeeper for Fairbanks Co., a large saw-mill lumber company in Jacksonville. When the Civil War started in 1861, Wm. S. Allen being a "godamyankee" he was compelled to leave his family in Jacksonville and flee. He joined his brother Geo. D. in Key West and later became deputy U.S. Marshall there. About the year 1866, the Allen Brothers built the largest store building in Key West at the southeast corner of Duval and Front Sts. The Allen Brothers were Wm. S., Geo. D., M.A., and B.W. The store was of general merchandise. Geo. D. Allen still owned his drugstore. A dearth of castor oil, about the year 1868, induced Geo. D. and Wm. S. to think of raising castor oil beans (which grow wild in some parts of Florida) as a business. Wm. S. Allen bought a schooner, and loading it with farming equipment and workmen, went to Sanibel Island off the west coast of Florida at Punta Rassa, and started to raising castor beans. Mr. Allen learned that while castor beans grew wild, when cultivated they did not do so well; and when a hurricane, in 1870, ruined his castor bean venture, he loaded his farming equipment on the schooner and headed for Key West. When he arrived off Pavillian Key he needed water, and ran the schooner into Chocoloskee Bay. Mr. Allen found John Weeks living at the mouth of the creek, on the east side, with his step-daughter, Lizzy, and daughter Apilona and Sarah Jane. Mr. Week's wife had died some years before. Mr. Allen went to Key West but soon returned (in 1870) and settled on the land where Everglades now stands. Geo. W. Allen, son of Wm. S. had come from Ithaca, New York where he was at school, and was now living at Chocoluskee with his father. Willie Allen and Dwight Allen came to join their father from Ithaca in 1871.

**Source of image above:**

*"The Copeland Papers"*

Naples Public Library on Microfilm

Research notes by D. Graham Copeland from the 1940's.

Digitized and made available by Vera Christine Kirkland via her blog

(<http://www.naplesnative.com/CopelandPapers.htm>) where she notes: "A little background about "The Copeland Papers". I found this information on microfilm at the public library in Naples, Florida while I was doing some genealogy research. The actual records are much larger than I have here, and go into the very early history of Florida. I wanted to copy what I thought would be helpful to me, but the stories were so fascinating that I just kept copying. There is quite a bit of information about many families who lived in the Collier County area during the late 1800's, early 1900's. The information is compiled from books, newspaper articles, county records and family histories written by some of the earliest residents of Collier County. At the time, I really had no idea who compiled this information. I knew that Charlton Tebeau, who wrote many books about Florida, has a series of books that are part of "The Copeland Studies in Florida History". I had also read that one of the counties earliest settlers, David Graham Copeland, wrote an unpublished history of early Collier County which Mr. Tebeau used as the basis for his book "Florida's Last Frontier, The History of Collier County". In the early 1970's, my aunt Gloria Durfey while researching Cape Romano and the artesian well that is located there, wrote to Mr. Tebeau

and in his answer he told her about the Copeland Papers and that he had donated the research notes to the Historical Society and that is how they found their way to the library. The Copeland Papers, are part of his research notes. If you are interested in the early history of Collier County, or lucky enough to be part of one of the families mentioned in these papers, you will be amazed at the information found here. And who knows...you might be able to solve a few family mysteries. I know I did!"

**Source noted in the Copeland Papers (i.e., where Mr. Copeland states that he found the information):**

History of Choculuskee or Everglades by Dwight A Allen; 419 Gardenia Street, West Palm Beach, Florida

**Of Note:**

When William S Allen arrived off Pavilion Key, he needed water and guided his schooner into the Choculoskee Bay. There, on the east side of "the creek" he found John Weeks there with his stepdaughter Lizzie (i.e., Mary Elizabeth Raulerson) and daughters Apilona and Sarah Jane Weeks.

Lizzie Raulerson was a half-sister to Apilonny and Sarah Jane Weeks. They shared the same mother, Sarah Mercer Raulerson, who died around 1865. Lizzie's father was Jacob Raulerson, who was still alive. It is possible that Jacob Raulerson and Sarah Mercer Raulerson divorced prior to Sarah leaving Hillsborough County with John Weeks, but, as of yet, no divorce record has been found and no marriage record for John Weeks and Sarah Raulerson has been found either. Research continues into this matter.