

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

GEORGE E. ALLEN:
A Register of a Facsimile Collection of His Papers
at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

PREFACE

A register physically describes a collection and provides information about its intellectual content, history and use restrictions. The register also provides processing notes and incidental information to guide the researcher in using the collection. The register, however, is not an index and usually does not permit the identification of specific documents without reference to the collection itself. The register is an aid to research, not a substitute for it.

As the register provides only general information about a collection, researchers may have specific questions which are not addressed. Additional information can be obtained about a collection by contacting the Library's staff.

A FACSIMILE COLLECTION OF THE PAPERS OF GEORGE E. ALLEN

Processed by: Dwight Strandberg
Completed: May 1989

Linear Feet: -1
Approximate pages: 300

Copyright: See Below
Restrictions: See Below

In Article 2 of the First Codicil of Mr. Allen's will dated May 12, 1969 he donated his "books, pictures, and letters" to his heirs and urged them in turn to donate them to the Booneville Public Library, 500 West Church Street, Booneville, Mississippi. The materials were donated to the Booneville Public Library which later was renamed the George E. Allen Library. By arrangement with the George E. Allen Library, the photographs and letters deposited there were reproduced and placed in the Eisenhower Library. The authority by which Mr. Allen's papers were deposited in the George E. Allen Library contained no known transfer of copyright nor restrictions to research. All materials have been opened.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Feb. 29, 1896 | Born Booneville, Mississippi |
| 1917 | LL.B. (bachelor of laws) from Cumberland University, Tennessee |
| 1933-1939 | Commissioner of the District of Columbia |
| 1938 | LL.D. (doctor of laws) |
| 1943 | Secretary, Democratic National Committee |
| 1946-1947 | Director of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation |
| 1947-1973 | Business executive with several corporations including AVCO, Incorporated. In 1964 he was the leading holder of corporate directorships. For a time associate of the Washington law firm Alvord and Alvord. |
| Apr. 23, 1973 | Died |

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of duplicate copies of material in the George E. Allen Library, Booneville, Mississippi. The primary subject of his collection is the relationship between George Allen and Dwight Eisenhower. This collection contains correspondence, photographs, and an Eisenhower memoir.

George E. Allen was born on February 29, 1896 in Booneville, Mississippi. He earned a law degree at Cumberland University in Tennessee and then practiced law in Mississippi and Indiana, afterwards engaging in various business ventures. In the 1920's he managed hotel properties in Washington, D.C., eventually drifting into politics and serving President Roosevelt and the Democratic Party. On behalf of the Red Cross, Allen made a number of trips to England and Europe where in the 1940's he began a relationship with Dwight Eisenhower that grew in intimacy over the ensuing years. Allen also had a close relationship with Harry Truman, serving as manager of his vice-presidential campaign and accepting an appointment as director of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in 1946. Based on his experiences as a White House intimate, he wrote Presidents Who Have Known Me in 1950, and then wrote a revised edition in 1960.

Though lawyer, businessman, and public servant, Allen was foremost known as a raconteur. This, along with mutual interests in golf, bridge, and farming probably formed the basis of the friendship between Allen and Eisenhower. The relationship was largely social and according to Eisenhower associates it was valuable to the President as an antidote to the stress of the office. The friendship continued through Eisenhower's retirement and Allen remained close to Mamie after Eisenhower's death. Allen himself died on April 23, 1973.

ARRANGEMENT AND PROCESSING NOTES

1. In January 1975 the Eisenhower Library borrowed materials from the Allen collection at the George E. Allen Library. After photocopying the manuscript items and duplicating the photographs the material was returned. When processing began on the facsimile collection in early 1989 the papers were in a semi-organized condition, presumably reflecting the order of the original collection. Some of the manuscript items apparently had been arranged and stored in albums. It was also discovered that the collection contained duplicate copies of a small percentage of items that were arranged and stored separately from the originals. To facilitate research of the collection the processing archivist created a new arrangement scheme, including folder titles, arrangement of folders, and organization of materials within folders.
2. Photographs have been transferred to the Library's audiovisual division though reference copies have been retained in the collection.
3. Brackets[] are used to enclose folder title annotations prepared by the processing archivist. These annotations highlight only significant documents or subjects documented and do not provide comprehensive descriptions.

CONTAINER LIST

Descriptive Note

The Correspondence between Allen and Eisenhower is primarily of a routine personal and social nature though there are a few letters in which farming and financial matters are discussed, and, an occasional comment, as noted below, on policy issues. Most of the correspondence between Allen and other principals pertains to Eisenhower. The remainder relates to personal and social matters.

| <u>Box No.</u> | <u>Contents</u> |
|----------------|--|
| 1 | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1943-1950 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1951 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1952 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1953 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1954 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1955 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1956 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1957 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1958 [Defense Establishment] |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1959 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1960 [Eldorado Bungalow] |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1961 [DDE's views re the economy, space program, Washington, and defense spending] |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1962 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1964 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1965 [DDE on Education] |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1966 |
| | Eisenhower, Dwight D. - 1969 |

Eisenhower, Dwight D. - Undated

Eisenhower, Dwight D. - AP Press Articles

Eisenhower, Dwight D. - Candidacy for President

Eisenhower, John S. D.

Eisenhower, Mamie Doud

General Correspondence [Alfred Gruenther, Richard Nixon, Lyndon Johnson, and William Scranton]

Photographs

Whitman, Ann C.

END OF CONTAINER LIST