

# Winfred Emory Allen Biography



Winfred Emory Allen was born June 6, 1873, in West Newton, Indiana, to Joseph Allen, Jr., and Esther Wilson Allen. As part of his Quaker upbringing, he attended Earlham College and was graduated with a Bachelor of Letters (B.L.) degree in 1898.

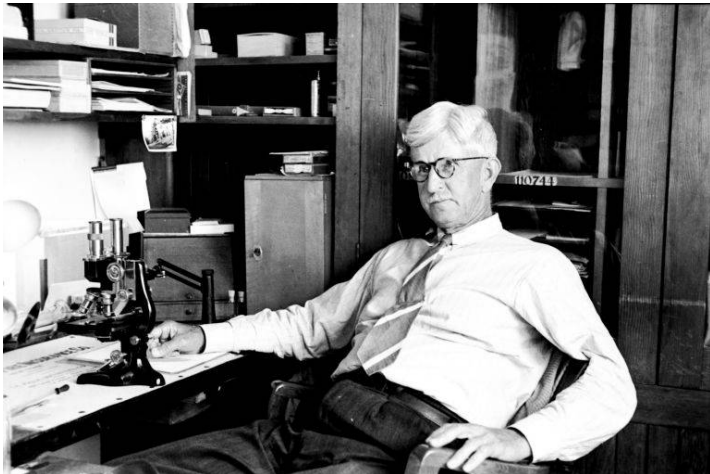
On July 24, 1900, Allen married Grace Margaret Wheeler, daughter of Judge Robert and Margaret Wheeler, in Osceola, Nebraska. They had four children, Wesley, born June 26, 1901, in Spokane, Washington, James

Joseph, born March 29, 1903, in Fargo, South Dakota, Esther Campbell, born March 28, 1905, in Nebraska, and Margaret born February 3, 1910, in Pomona, California. Grace Wheeler Allen died January 20, 1935.

Allen began work as assistant physical director at University of Nebraska from 1899-1900 and then from 1904-1905. His lifelong interest in athletics began there with his work as coach and director of physical education. From 1900-1902, Allen was head of the department of biology in a high school near Spokane, Washington.

Allen received an A.M. degree from Lawrence College in 1904. He worked at Nebraska State Normal School, Kearney, from 1905-1908. From 1910 to 1911, he was assistant zoology instructor at the University of Illinois. Allen was head of the department of biology, Stockton High School, Stockton, California, from 1912-1916. He then worked at Fresno High School and Junior College from 1916-1919. At this time, he collected data for his first major work on the plankton of the San Joaquin River and was working on his Ph.D. in Biology at the University of California in Berkeley under Charles Atwood Kofoid. He never completed his doctorate. W.E. Allen's daughter Margaret Allen Brubaker recalls that Allen's work on plankton attracted the interest of William E. Ritter, director of the Scripps Institution. Ritter invited Allen to come to Scripps.

From 1917 to 1942, Allen wrote feature articles on biology for a number of California newspapers. He called this work the California Biological Feature Service. The features were carried in many newspapers, including newspapers owned by Edward W. Scripps.



In 1919, W.E. Allen began work at Scripps Institution for Biological Research as assistant professor of biology, having worked at Scripps two summers previously. The Allens lived in a wooden cottage on the Scripps campus. W.E. Allen devoted his attention almost exclusively to quantitative studies of the marine phytoplankton, particularly of the waters off southern California. He early devised standard collection methods involving filtering or settling of the contents of water samples. He invented a closing bottle called the Allen bottle. Allen also wrote press releases for Scripps Institution beginning in 1919. He also wrote pieces for a newspaper column entitled

"Scripps Institution News" in the La Jolla Light, which reported newsworthy events and social activities on the Scripps campus.

Allen was a member of the Ecological Society of America, the American Microscopical Society, the Limnological Society of America, the Western Society of Naturalists and the Botanical Society of America.

While Allen worked cordially with William E. Ritter, he often disagreed with the policies of Scripps's second director, T. Wayland Vaughan. Allen apparently favored the marine biology focus and ecological perspective of Ritter and felt less at home in the broad oceanographic program initiated by Vaughan in 1925.

W.E. Allen retired from the Scripps Institution in 1943 and remained professor emeritus until 1946. He died on September 20, 1947, in Santa Paula, California.