

**The Stephen C. Welch and Louisa Harriet Allen Welch family**  
of  
Allegany, New York

and the relationship to the

**the two families of William Joseph Mc/MaGavern**  
(1) Mary Louise Leighton  
(2) Mary Louisa Welch

written by Don McGavern

Great paternal grandson of the union of Mary Louisa Welch and William Joseph Ma/McGavern  
Mary was the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 9 children of Stephen Welch & Louisa Harriet Allen of Allegany.

Date of this information: July 30, 2006

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William Joseph Mc/Magavern was an Episcopal/Methodist Minister  
serving Western New York from 1866-1921

William's 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Mary Louisa Welch was the 3<sup>rd</sup> child of Stephen and Louisa

There were 5 children from the marriage of William and Mary Louise Leighton, 1865-1873, known as the 1<sup>st</sup> family. There were 9 children with William and Mary Louisa Welch, 1873-1921, known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> family

The first child of William and Mary Louisa, James died as an infant. The 2<sup>nd</sup> child born to them was my paternal Grandfather, **Clair Stephen McGavern**, with the middle name related to his paternal grandfather **Stephen C. Welch**.

Related information on two other Allegany, New York families is also presented because they were not only close friends of the Welch family, but the union of two of the following family members resulted in the birth of my paternal grandmother, **Ada Louisa Lewis**.

**The family of Oren Jefferson Lewis**  
(father Hiram Lewis/mother Freelove Starks)  
&  
**The family of Olive A. McNall**  
(father Levi McNall/mother Mandana Clark)

Clair Stephen had moved to Allegany as a teenager to live with his paternal Grandfather and Grandmother, Stephen and Louisa Welch family from 1897-1900. He was 19 years old. His father was a Methodist minister and moved from location to location almost on an annual basis. His move to Allegany was to finish school. In 1898, Clair's younger brother Arthur also moved to Allegany to finish school. He roomed with Clair while there and worked on the Welch farm in the summer months. From 1900-1903 Clair attended Syracuse University to get his law degree. From 1903-1907 Clair returned to Allegany and practiced as a lawyer. Art also went to Syracuse after he finished school and stayed in Syracuse to practice law. Although Clair didn't resume living with the Welch family, he did stay in contact with the Welch family members for the rest of his life. From 1903-1907 two other

brothers of Clair came to live and briefly work in Allegany, Charles (#5 of the 1st family) and Clifford (#6 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> family). Charles would later move to Olean and build a successful sand and gravel business there.

Louisa passed away June 9, 1899 and Stephen passed away on March 31, 1906. Both are buried in the Protestant Cemetery in Allegany.

Sometime during Clair's years in Allegany he met Ada Lewis. They were married January 30, 1907 in Allegany. Along with Oren and Olive Lewis, Clair and Ada moved to Mercer, Pennsylvania where Clair was to become the manager of sand and gravel company there. Oren, along with Clair's brother Charles, had invested money in the Mercer plant and were tri-owners.

Oren passed away February 10, 1911 in Mercer while Olive passed away on October 18, 1915, also in Mercer. Both were returned to Allegany to be buried.

A detailed and comprehensive family history of William Joseph Mc/Magavern has been compiled on both of his families and is available on a separate CD. The following information will be replicated in that history under the life of Mary Louisa Welch.

The order of information is as follows:

1. Preface: How the information came to be;
2. General information about the origins of Allegany, New York;
3. The lives of Stephen Welch's parents: Richard Welch and his wife: Polly Penny;
4. The lives of Stephen C. Welch and his wife, Louisa Harriet Allen;
5. Regarding Louisa Harriet Allen's origins and a logical linkage to Groton, New York;
6. A McGavern family "folk lore" story intimating a linkage to Ethan Allen's bloodline;
7. The family tree of Olive Ann McMall; and,
8. The family tree of Oren Jefferson Lewis
9. A biography of Ethan Allen and his heritage

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**1. Preface: how the the following information came to be:**

The main source of the following information was obtained from the work developed by my late uncle, Lewis Merle "Mac" McGavern. He became an astute Mc/Magavern family genealogist later in his life. His interest might have started as a hobby or it may have been because he had accumulated so much material from his father, who in turn, had collected materials from his mother Mary Louisa Welch who lived in his home from 1921, following the death of her husband William, until her passing in 1943.

The materials included letters and conversations with his mother, diaries developed by Olive and her daughter Ada, which Ada maintained almost on a daily basis for a good portion of her life, the 3 biographies that Clair wrote later in his life, the Civil War diary that Stephen Welch had given to Clair prior to his passing in 1906 plus Clair's stories of staying connected with the Welch family, especially his frequent visits to Fred and "Kate" Welch throughout his life.

Whatever the reason, the surviving Mc/Magavern family members are very fortunate, as Lewis dedicated a great portion of his remaining years traveling, researching and visiting various family members attempting to record and document the history. His amazing work, including putting to work all of the archival stories on a very old typewriter and through regular postal channels, long before the

advent of the “electronic age.” Lewis was a wonderful “story teller” and was a key “advance man” for the current Mc/MaGavern family members who are participating on continuing the legacy of our family tree.

My entrance into the preceding occurred by chance. In 1985, while on a sport trip to the University of Texas in Austin, I had wanted to reunite with Lewis, his wife Margaret and my cousin, their daughter, Maureen, who I had not seen for many years. At that time, I had no idea of our family history or how much Lewis had developed it. In a very short 4 hour visit, Lewis and I sat in the family dining room where he showed me just a few “samples” of his prodigious work. I, of course, was “overloaded” but really interested in knowing how extensive our family roots were.

Lewis gave me a “beginner’s package” that he had so wonderfully thought ahead to copy for me. I remember his looking at me with those “intense and bright eyes of his” and saying, “Someday you might be interested in all of this!” How prophetic he was, as the following information has now evolved.

Since 1998 I have become highly interested in expanding “Mac’s” work, thanks to an electronic nudge from a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin from the “1<sup>st</sup> family” named Heidi Ford and later stimulation for other Mc/Magaverns. The interest and passion has continued to develop especially in being the key writer for stories related to the “2<sup>nd</sup> family” members. At the same time, as Lewis’ health started to dwindle, due to older age, the communication and interest, that I now had was difficult for him to relate to. However, I’m sure he knew that I had now “picked up the torch” before his passing.

On May 24, 2002, after having lived a truly good life, Lewis passed away.

In the fall of 2002 I made plans to go to my own mother’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in April of 2003 in Shawnee, Oklahoma. In communication with Lewis’ son, Jim, also having an interest in continuing his Dad’s work, invited me to stop off in Austin enroute to Shawnee to review what some of the archives might contain. Jim didn’t live in Austin, but did live in Texas, and within a reasonably short drive to Austin. So, in March, 2003, I returned to Austin to see Aunt Margaret, Jim and for a brief time there, with cousin Maureen.

Prior to going, one of the files that I had put together was a history of Stephen Welch’s family, based on the information received from Lewis in 1985, from which served as a foundation to the current writing. I don’t remember any of us sleeping much during my 3 days and nights there, as there was SO MUCH information...and well organized! Some examples included: Lewis typing all of Olive McNall’s hand written diaries that she had written as a child; typing up all of his own mother’s diaries, that ranged from 1886-1935; a variety of family albums and pictures organized into the various family trees, i.e. the Welchs’, the Lewis family, the McNall family and of course, some amazing photographs of several of the “older McGavern” family members.

Jim had brought his computer and printer. We spent many hours each day cataloging and reviewing the enormous amount of materials that Lewis had assembled. If there ever was a genealogy heaven for our family, I can testify I have been there. For sure we were only able to scratch the surface, especially for someone like me who was a real “rookie” in the development of our family tree history. This revision of the March, 2003 work is a result of the April visit and now an ongoing and growing file.

I welcome any enhancements or corrections. Please contact me at:

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## **2. General information about Allegany, New York**

The following information was taken from: [www.rootsweb.com/~nycattar/towns/allegany.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nycattar/towns/allegany.htm)  
February, 2003:

“The town of Allegany was formed from Great Valley on April 18, 1831. It was originally called Burton and its name was changed to Allegany on March 28, 1851. It lies on the south border of the county, and includes part of the Allegany Indian Reservation.

There are 3 streams, Four Mile, Five Mile and Mill Creeks, which are tributaries of the Allegany River. Much of the town was covered by lumber in 1860, and lumbering was an important industry. Allegany (p.v.) is located upon Allegany River, and in 1862 contained a tannery, door factory, and blind factory. It had 3 churches and 70 horses, and was a station on the NY and Erie railroad. A college, run by the Franciscans, was located near the village. Five Mile Run is a p.o. that was first settled by Ebenezer Reed from Connecticut, who located near the mouth of Five Mile Creek in 1820. Other early settlers include: Andrew Allen, Hiram Wood, James Strong, Isaac Eggleston, and Amos and David Orton, who settled along the creek in 1821.

The first child born was Nathan Reed on October 2, 1820. William B. Fox and Sally Strong were the first couple to marry, in 1825. The first deaths were to children of Isaac Eggleston in 1823.

Leonard Cronkite taught the first school, in a house of James Strong's in the winter of 1825-26. The first innkeeper was Ebenezer Reed in 1820; and the first storekeeper was 1825-27. Aaron Wheeler, in 1833. The first sawmill was owned by Reuben Lamberton, 1825-28. on 5 mile Creek, in 1826.

The first religious services of the Baptist faith were held at the house of James Strong, by Elder Benjamin Cole in 1823. The first Methodist church was formed in 1829.”

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## **3. The lives of Stephen Welch's parents: Richard and Polly Penny Welch**

### **Stephen Welch's Grandfather: Stephen Welch** (by LMMc)

The first Stephen Welch was listed by Lewis as a sailing master out of Portsmouth, Maine, sailing his own ship. Stephen was born in 1770. In 1811, he sailed from Portsmouth to Dublin with a load of cattle. Manifests show that the cattle were delivered at Dublin and paid for in gold. He sailed homeward from Dublin, but never reached Portsmouth. The ship and crew were never heard from again. Trouble was brewing on the high seas with Britain at the time of disappearance. Also, numerous

pirates were active at the time. The solution probably lies in one or the other. I was not able to find any records of Stephen's wife's name or any children other than a son, Richard Welch.

**Note:** In communications with genealogist Mary Bridges, also a descendent of the Welch family, she has not been able to verify the sailing records detailed by my late Uncle. Research is still ongoing.

**Stephen Welch's Father: Richard Welch:**

**Richard Porter Welch**

b/ January 20 1798 in Maine (presumption Portsmouth)  
d/March 27, 1875: Allegany, New York (no location of burial site)  
m/July 25, 1822 to Polly Penny..

**Polly Penny**

b/June 8, 1804 (no location mentioned, but presume she was a resident of Groton, New York leading up to their marriage date in 1822.  
d/November 22, 1880 (no location mentioned)

**Richard and Polly had 8 children:**

Stephen C. Welch; Henry Welch; Eunice Fanny Welch; Mary Eliza Welch; Allegany Jane Welch; John Russell Welch; Catherine Bouton Welch and Delancy Welch.

**Between 1824-1833:**

**#2: Henry Welch:**

b/February 26, 1827 (no location but could assume Groton, New York)  
d/January 18, 1855: (no location)

**#3: Eunice Fanny Welch:**

b/August 27, 1829 (no location but could assume Groton, New York)  
d/June 1, 1861 (presume Allegany)  
(married:  
John Radcliff McConnell: July 10, 1854: (no location)

**#4: Mary Eliza Welch:**

b/April 24, 1833 ((could be either Groton or on the farm near Olean)  
d/December 1, 1834 (no location)

**Between 1836-1848**

**#5: Allegany Jane Welch:**

b/May 16, 1836 (presume it was on the farm near Olean)  
d/January 17, 1878 (no location)

**#6: John Russell Welch:**

b/June 9, 1839 (presume it was on the farm near Olean)  
d/December 15, 1854 (no location)

**#7: Catherine Bouton Welch:**

b/August 22, 1843 (presume it was on the farm near Olean)

d/July 14, 1845 (presume it was on the farm near Olean)

**#8: Delancy Welch:**

b/March 24, 1846 (presume born on the farm near Olean although the census records just show Olean)

d/February 28, 1864 (Libby Prison [Confederate Forces] U.S. Civil War)

**Richard and Polly's life** (LMMc)

Richard moved from Maine to Groton, New York. There are no records when the move was made or whether it was because his father had died or on his own. There is also no mention of his mother accompanying them. There is also no location for the marriage of Richard and Polly or whether Polly was already a resident of Groton when Richard arrived. However, because the date of their wedding was in 1822 and **the birth of their first child Stephen C. Welch was on June 14, 1824 in Groton, New York**, it is presumed that they had both been living there at least by 1822. Richard was 24 and Polly was just turning 19 at the time of their wedding."

**Note:** In the Our Allegany Heritage: 1831-1981, A Sesquicentennial Review" an article contributed by a Cattaraugus County volunteer, and posted by Pat Hoy, edited by Islay Nicholson Bergreen and Thomas J. Schaeper, published by the Town of Allegany, Allegany, New York, 1981, and printed by Citizen Printing House, Allegany, New York it states that Richard and Polly moved to Cattaraugus County, New York in 1833, where he became Sheriff in 1867. However, the author didn't suggest just where in Cattaraugus County this took place. Further information from the census of 1840 lists Richard in Olean, New York, located on a farm "just outside of Olean." One might presume that Richard and family had stayed in Groton from 1822-33 since no locations of the births of children two to seven have been found. However, Delancy's birth date is March 24, 1846 is recorded as Olean. This suggests, as a minimum that Richard's family was still in Olean at this date and remained there until their move to Allegany in 1848..

In 1848 the family moved to nearby Allegany to continue making a living in farming. A great majority of men in that area were farmers or loggers, since all of the land was covered with forests and there were rivers to move the lumber down stream. This move is verified by the New York census of 1855 showing that Richard, moved to Allegany in 1848, when Allegany was then Burton. Both Richard and his son Stephen are listed in Allegany in the 1850 census.

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**4. The lives of Stephen C. and Louisa Harriet Allen Welch**

**Stephen C. Welch**

b/June 14, 1824: Groton, New York

d/March 31, 1906: Allegany, New York

buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Section B1, Plot 39, Grave 1

married: December 22, 1847 (no location but presume Allegany)

**Louisa Harriet Allen:**

b/November 17, 1826: (possibly born in Groton, N..)

d/June 9, 1899: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Section B1, Plot 39, Grave 2, right next to Stephen.

However, the name is listed "Louise" not "Louisa".

**Note:** The name Louisa is the accepted McGavern family version of her first name. I haven't seen the gravesite so cannot attest to the spelling but believe Louisa to be the correct version, since her mother's name also included Louisa.

**Stephen and Louisa had 9 children:**

Ruth Janette Welch; Charles Henry "Deke" Welch; Mary Louisa Welch; Fannie Cynthia Welch; Richard Allen Welch; Lizzie Julia Welch; Frederick "Fred" S. Welch; Samuel "Sam" S. Welch; and Edith C. Welch.

**#1: Ruth Janette Welch**

b/April 4, 1849: Allegany

d/June 6, 1873

buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Section B1, Plot 39, Grave 3

**#2: Charles Henry "Deke" Welch**

b/November 20, 1850: Allegany

d/ (no date): California

**#3: Mary Louisa Welch (My paternal Great Grandmother)**

b/May 9, 1852: RACINE, WISCONSIN (apparently Stephen and Louisa moved to Wisconsin for about 4 years. No reason has been given, but two of Stephen and Louisa's children were born there, with the rest being born in Allegany.)

d/March 3, 1943: Erie, Pennsylvania

buried: Springville, New York

married: **William Joseph Ma/McGavern** (my paternal Great Grandfather)

July 28, 1873: Allegany

**#4: Fannie Cynthia Welch**

b/January 24, 1854: Racine, Wisconsin

d/September 5, 1863: Allegany

buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Section B1, Plot 39, Grave 5

**#5: Richard Allen Welch**

b/January 31, 1856: Allegany

d/ (no date or location)

**#6: Lizzie Julia Welch**

b/March 16, 1859: Allegany

d/September 15, 1870: Allegany

buried: Section B1, Plot 39, Grave 4

**#7: Frederick "Fred" S. Welch**

b/ June 15, 1864: Allegany

d/1952: Allegany

buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Section S1, Plot 46, Grave 6

**Note:** The middle name may stand for Stephen)

married:

**Katherine "Kate"** (no maiden name known)

b/(no information)

d/1965: Allegany: buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Section S1, Plot 46, Grave 5

**#8: Samuel "Sam" S. Welch**

b/August 8, 1867: Allegany

d/(no date) : Oregon

**#9: Edith C. Welch**

b/January 15, 1870: Allegany

d/(no date) : California

Married: Jack Reynolds (A son Clyde Reynolds from Allegany has been a source of information to 2<sup>nd</sup> generation McGaverns regarding the Welch family.

**Note:** Further indication that Richard and Polly had moved to Allegany by 1848, are the birth dates/locations of their 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> children, **Ruth Janette Welch**, born April 4, 1849 and **Charles Henry "Deke" Welch**, born November 20, 1850, both listed as born in Allegany.

In 1851, Stephen, Louisa and the two children moved to Racine, Wisconsin, possibly for a better job. Wisconsin had just been admitted to the Union in 1848 and was opening up to settlers. Children #3 & #4 were born in Racine: **Mary Louisa Welch**, born May 9, 1852, and **Fannie Cynthia Welch** in January 24, 1854.

**Note:** In the obituary for Mary Louisa Welch on her passing in 1943, the newspaper article said..."her father had helped survey sections for the State of Wisconsin.

About 1855, Stephen, Louisa and the four children moved back to Allegany, where they bought a farm on the edge of town, selling milk, butter and eggs from their farm animals and growing corn and garden produce. Children #5 & #6, **Richard Allen Welch**, born March 16, 1856 and **Lizzie Julia Welch** born March 16, 1859 were both born in Allegany.

When the Civil War broke out in 1862, it didn't affect the family at once. However, in the summer of 1862, at the age of 38 years of age, Stephen, standing 5', 7.5 inches tall, black hair and eyed, with a prominent hook nose, went to Jamestown, New York to enlist. In fact Stephen's younger brother, Delancy, also enlisted at the same time. They were placed in Company C, 154<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers under Captain James Hearding.. Later that year, Stephen was in General Hooker's Division at Fredericksburg, Virginia, where the North was badly defeated.

**Excerpts from Stephen's Civil War hand-written diary, starting in January, 1863**

**Note: Stephen's war diary**

In addition to the "real thing" in Lewis' archives in Austin, I was provided a photocopy of it by Virginia McGavern in 2001. His story and life in the service is featured in much more detail than what follows. There was are over 40 pages of handwritten material. There is also a detailed record of Stephen's battle at Dug Gap, Georgia, in a book related to the Medal of Honor winners held by Virginia McGavern, daughter-in-law to Arthur McGavern. The following excerpts are not easy to follow, but should provide a general sense of Stephen's life during the Civil War.

"Stephen describes in detail camp life and the various sorties that occurred as they were bivouacked near Chancellorsville up until May 1, 1863. At that time, during a battle between the forces, Stephen was captured by the Confederates. After the battle, the risoners were marched south to City Point (near Norfolk, Virginia where, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, they were exchanged for Confederate soldiers and went by boat up through Chesapeake



Bay. They disembarked at Annapolis, where they marched to the vicinity of Washington and paroled at City Point, Virginia on May 15<sup>th</sup>. On May 18<sup>th</sup> they reported to Camp Parole, located where Arlington Cemetery is today.

From May 29-July 24, 1863 Stephen was located at a place called Camp Convalescent. On July 1, 1863, during the Battle of Gettysburg, Stephen's brother, Delancy, was captured and sent to Libby Prison at Richmond, Virginia. He was only 17 at the time.

Camp life was boring, with very little to do! By now Stephen was a Sergeant, and in charge of quite a few men. On September 4, 1863, Stephen was granted a furlough and went home to Allegany. His little daughter, Fannie, was very ill and died while he was here. (September 5<sup>th</sup>) When his furlough was up he did not return to Camp Parole until October 23. As a result, he was listed as a deserter. The charges were later reduced, due to his daughter's death as absent without leave.

**Note:** From the Record & Pension Office: War Department: of April 13, 1894, regarding the Medal of Honor awarded to Stephen Welch: "The charge of "desertion" reduced to "absent without leave" from September 4, 1863 to October 23, 1863 is removed from his record", Section 2, Act of Congress, March 2, 1884."

It was during his time home in September/October that Louisa became pregnant with their 7<sup>th</sup> child, Frederick (Fred) S. Welch, who was born on June 15, 1864.

When he arrived back at Camp Convalescent in October, he was entrained back to his Division which was, by that time, in Alabama. Stephen tells of going through Harper's Ferry, Columbus, Ohio, and Cincinnati, Ohio, all by train. He eventually arrived at Louisville, Kentucky and then onto Nashville, Tennessee. From that point he went on to Murfreesboro on Stones River. This was October 17, 1863. From there he passed through Tullahoma, arriving at Stevenson, Alabama, eventually ending up at Bridgeport, Alabama, a few miles west of Chattanooga. After working making ties for a railroad, and being temporarily in command of Company "C", they quit work on the railroad, broke camp and proceeded toward Chattanooga, crossing the Tennessee River. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, they engaged the enemy and came through to within four miles of Chattanooga. By November 23<sup>rd</sup>, they were engaged in battle, and into the 24<sup>th</sup>, when they lost several wounded.

**Note:** From November 24-December 7. my copy of shows the pages of Stephen's diary were missing.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, Stephen's Company were about 70 miles northeast of Chattanooga near a town called Philadelphia, Tennessee. Then they turned back southwest and marched to Athens and then to 2 miles west of Charlestown. There were averaging about 16 miles each day. From there, they marched to Cleveland, about nine miles. Stephen made a note that there were about 30 miles from Chattanooga. By December 16<sup>th</sup>, they were again on their way to Chattanooga, arriving at their old campsite by December 17<sup>th</sup>. The weather was very cold and rainy. From there through the balance of the year, the pages of his diary were torn out.

In February, 1864, Delancy died in Libby Prison. Confederate records show that he died from the effects of rheumatic complications. He probably starved to death.

In May, 1864, the 154<sup>th</sup>, Southeast of Chattanooga, at Rocky Face Ridge, Dug Gap, Georgia, facing some heavy fighting, Stephen was to win the Congressional Medal of Honor for saving a comrade at great risk to himself. The Confederates were entrenched at the top of the Ridge, firing down on the Northern soldiers. One of the Company soldiers, Corporal George Greek was wounded and screaming in pain in the open ground between the combatants. Stephen and a comrade, Charles McKay, crawled out in full view of both sides and carried the wounded man back to his Company. Both sides stopped firing, and cheered. He never would talk about it. “

**Note:** Family stories suggest that the reason that both sides stopped firing is that Stephen got a cooking pot and used it as a helmet over his head enroute to get his fallen comrade. The uniqueness of such stopped the shooting as they both sides wanted to see more of this strange sight of a soldier with a pot on his head! (perhaps the advent of the “helmet” in future wars ☺). As mentioned in the story, there was cheering for his bravery.

He was field promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant on June 8, 1864 for his heroic action in addition to being recommended for the Medal of Honor. No mention about what happened to Charles McKay. The date of issue for the Citation dated: 13 April 1894 reads: “Riskyed his life in rescuing a wounded comrade under fire of the enemy.” [I don’t know at this date if this meant he was presented the medal in 1894 or just the citation.]

**Note:** Charles McKay was later awarded the Medal of Honor. One McGavern family story, developed by Sanford Allen McGavern, Jr., had Stephen’s Medal of Honor presented to Stephen, along with a sword by the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. I have no proof of this. In fact, at the Medal of Honor website, [www.defenselink.mil/faq/pis/med\\_honor.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/faq/pis/med_honor.html) it indicates the following:

**Note:** The Medal of Honor was specifically developed during the Civil War. There were over 1500 recipients, with 1195 going to recipients of the Army. Since there have only been approximately 3400 Medals awarded, the Civil War by far outdoes all of the other American conflicts where the Medal was awarded.”

Stephen’s medal and possibly his sword are in possession of his grandson, William Clare Welch, in Allegany. William Clare Welch was a son of Frederick S. Welch, the 7<sup>th</sup> child of Stephen and Polly. This medal was displayed at the 21<sup>st</sup> reunion of the 154<sup>th</sup> in Allegany in July of 2006.

U.S. Army records at the archives of Washington, D.C., indicated Stephen’s Division was with Sherman’s “march to the sea” through Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia. He was with his outfit through Georgia, then north into the Carolinas and was finally mustered out at the end of the war. “

**Note:** It seems that some notation indicated Stephen was a Captain when he ended his military service. However, I can only find reference to the field promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. Further research might indicate when he was promoted to Captain.

Stephen went back to farming in Allegany. Sometime in 1865, **Katherine “Kate” Welch** was born, and died in the same year. On August 8, 1867, **Samuel “Sam” S. Welch** was born in Allegany. The last child of Stephen and Louisa, **Edith C. Welch**, was born January 15, 1870 in Allegany.

Following the death of Louisa in 1899, Stephen continued living at the old homestead with his daughter Edith and her husband Jack Reynolds until his death in 1906.”

### **One final postscript...**

The following are 3 excerpts from the diary of Olive McNall, my maternal Great Grandmother. when she was a young person living in Allegany to illustrate just some of the interconnections between all of the McNall and Welch families in Allegany that I have written down from the archives of my Uncle to illustrate this point:

“February 12, 1870: Ruth and Mary Welch visited with us today. (McNall family)”

“March 10, 1871: I (Olive) went to Mr. Welch’s home and stayed all night.”

“March 11, 1871: Ruth Welch came home with Mate McNall and stayed all night at our place. (McNalls home)”

\* \* \* \*

### **5. Regarding Louisa Harriet Allen’s possible origins**

As previously related, it is presumed that Stephen lived with his mother and father in Groton, New York from birth (1824) until his parents moved to a farm outside of Olean in 1933. He would have been 11 at that the time of moving. It is also presumed that Stephen stayed with his parents in Olean until his marriage with **Louisa Harriet Allen**, on December 22, 1847 in Groton. It is also presume that Stephen and Louisa went back to the Welch farm in Olean after the marriage, to live and work on or nearby the property Richard and Polly. Therefore, there is some logic to the idea that the original connection between the Welch family and Louisa’s family had to have occurred in Groton, New York during Stephen’s 11 years of living there. In addition, somehow Richard and Polly maintained contact with Louisa’s family over years, until Stephen and Louisa reached “marriageable age”, Stephen at 25 and Louisa at 23 by 1847. The contact could have been simply between the parents, or, as the two got older, some visits back and forth might have occurred to bring their eventual marriage to fruition. There is even the possibility that Stephen and Louisa might have also been childhood friends, and somehow maintained that relationship over time. Regardless of all of the preceding, in 1847 they were married in Groton..

**Note:** My Uncle, Lewis indicated that he felt Louisa was born somewhere in New York, which has provided me with made a focus on Groton for continuing investigations. Lewis also indicated that her father’s name might have been William with the suggestion that he had moved from Vermont. Louisa’s mother, no name provided, supposedly was from Rhode Island. There has been no additional information accessed on Louisa, other than the marriage to Stephen in Groton as of the date of this article.

### **A logical and potential Allen family inkage related to Groton, New York**

I have made inquiries to archivists who might have information regarding Groton, and any "Allens" that might have/still live there. One source sent back that there was one Allen family that had lived there and have some descendents buried there. The following Allen family had moved from Vermont to West Groton in 1804. The following information on that family:

Joseph Allen

b/April 13, 1738, Daughter’s of the American Revolution: Patriot Index: PS MA

married: October 13, 1761 to an Elizabeth Warner

d/ ? : DAR records state he is buried in Free Cemetery, West Groton, NY, known today as Stearns Cemetery.

**Note:** The Groton archivist noted that the DAR records indicate Joseph came to Groton, NY with his son Isaac Allen in 1804. It also indicated that Joseph Allen's parents were listed as Benjamin Allen and Mehitable Ingalls.

Joseph and Elizabeth had 11 children...but only 3 are known at this date...one of the 8 might have been Louisa's parents:

The known children include:

#1 Isaac Allen  
b/March 27 1774  
d/March 3, 1825  
m/Susan F. Sellen  
b/February 18, 1794  
d/December, 1881

**Note:** The archivist noted that in a publication titled "Landmarks of Tomkins County", Issac is called a "native of Vermont" who came to West Groton in 1804 and his father, Joseph and family followed. Isaac and his brother both served in the War of 1812.

Isaac and his wife had 5 children.

a) Merilla  
b/1818  
d/July 1821 (buried in Stearns Cemetery)

b) Louisa  
b/1816  
d/1816 (buried in Stearns Cemetery)

c) Amanda  
b/1815  
d/1899  
m/March 3, 1839 to Rev. Joseph Wilcott Stearns (buried in Stearns Cemetery)  
b/February 21, 1808  
d/April 1888

d) Perry W.  
b/February 10, 1818  
d/1900  
m/Charlotte E. Clement

e) Napoleon W  
b/February 24, 1823  
d/ July 20, 1885 (buried in Stearns Cemetery)

#2 Asaph Allen  
b/January 25, 1778  
d/October 28, 1814 (during War of 1812)  
m/about 1800 to Lois King,  
b/December 13, 1777

Asaph and Lois had 8 children before his death:

a) Asaph  
b/ August. 4, 1801;

b) Adaline  
b/December 14, 1802  
d. 1876

c) Isaac  
b/Oct. 9, 1804  
d/April 19, 1883

d) Lyman  
born Sept. 17, 1805

e) Oliver  
b/Aug. 10, 1806

f) Henry R.  
b/ January 22, 1810

g) William  
b/August. 9, 1812

h) Harriet N.  
b/August 6, 1814.

#3 Susan Allen (no stats discovered yet)

**Note:** In the book, "The Genealogy of Samuel Allen of Windsor, Connecticut and some of his descendents", written by Wilard S. Allen, privately printed in Boston in 1876 and re-issued by Tuttle Publications of Vermont, no Benjamin/Joseph or Isaac Allen were found which would fit into our history, i.e. birth dates, children's names, locations they were living in, etc.

\* \* \*

**6. A McGavern "family lore" story purportedly linking Louisa to the family of Ethan Allen: Revolutionary War Patriot**

One of our family "family folklore stories" that has been passed down for 3 generations is that Louisa was a descendent of Ethan Allen's family, of Vermont, the legendary leader of the Green Mountain

Boys during the American Revolutionary War who became very famous for his victory at Fort Ticonderoga without a shot being fired. This story was deemed significant enough that 9 McGavern descendents have had the middle name of "Allen" including my own brother Keith Allen McGavern. The connection was first noted by Sanford "Sandy" Allen McGavern, Jr., a grandson of Stephen Welch, who suggested that Louisa was a daughter of Ethan Alphonso Allen (1789-1855) one of Ethan's two sons from the 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage to Fanny Montresor Buchan in 1784.

However, in the definitive publication, "The Genealogy of Ethan Allen and his brothers and sisters", compiled by John L. Barr, a publication of the Ethan Allen Homestead Trust, (1993), this story has not been proved to be true. Please refer to the last part of this file, item #10 for a complete profile on Ethan's family.

**Note:** There still may be a "connection" to Ethan Allen as perhaps someone who served with him, knew him or perhaps a cousin, as there were 3 major Allen families who came from England in the 1600s via New York who eventually settled in Vermont and Connecticut. A detailed history of Ethan is featured at the very end of this file.

\* \* \* \*

### **7. The family tree of Levi McNall**

**Levi McNall** (involved in Lumber)

b/June 21, 1812: Staffordsprings, Connecticut

d/September 13, 1898: Allegany

buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Area B1, Plot 41, Grave 1.

Married to: **Mandana Clark**

September 17, 1837

b/June 10, 1821: Massachusetts

d/October 4, 1891: Allegany

buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Area B1, Plot 41, Grave 2.

Levi and Mandana McNall had 6 children:

#1: John C. McNall

b/ March 14, 1843: Allegany

d/1927: Allegany

buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Area B1, Plot 41, Grave 5.

Married: Meillison "Mary" Washburn: March 7, 1863

#2: Ransom M. McNall

b/October 14, 1845: Allegany

d/ (not known) : Iowa

#3: Charles Frank McNall

b/January 21, 1848: Allegany

d/ infancy

buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Area B1, Plot 41, Grave 6

#4: **Olive A. McNall** (Ada's mother)

b/June 17, 1851: Allegany

d/October 18, 1915: Mercer, Pennsylvania

buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery as noted previously.  
Married to: Oren J. Lewis as noted previously

#5: Mary G. (Mate) McNall  
b/November 11, 1853: Allegany  
d/1924: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Area B1, Plot 41, Grave 4  
married to: Jared D. Phillips

#6: Mellison (Mellie) McNall  
b/March 19, 1857: Allegany  
d/ (no information)

\*\*\*\*

## **8. The family tree of Oren Jefferson Lewis**

John Lewis  
b/February 7, 1775  
d/February 6, 1834  
married: Anna Arnold  
b/January 29, 1778  
d/February 8, 1853

John and Anna had at least one child:

Hiram Lewis  
b/September 24 1806: Marshfield, New York  
d/February 22, 1876  
married Freelove Starks: January 1, 1832  
b/October 27, 1808: Marshfield, New York  
d/October 11, 1876

Hiram and Freelove had at least one child:

Oren/Oreen J. Lewis, Carpenter  
b/September 4, 1842 (no location)  
d/February 10, 1911: Mercer, Pennsylvania  
buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Area B5, Plot 1, Grave 1.  
**Note:** The name provided by the cemetery is Oreen, not Oren.

Married to: Olive A. McNall: October 14, 1871  
b/June 17, 1851 (no location)  
d/October 18, 1915: Mercer Pennsylvania  
buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Area B5, Plot 1, Grave 2.

Ada Louisa Lewis  
b/May 7, 1874: Sardina, New York  
d/April 1, 1947: Erie, Pennsylvania  
married: Clair Stephen McGavern  
October 14, 1871: Allegany, New York

Note:

Ada had one brother, Leroy "Roy" M. Lewis

b/ May 4, 1879: Allegany

d/September 13, 1892: Allegany

buried: Allegany Protestant Cemetery: Area B5, Plot 5, Grave 4.

**Note:** It would be my assumption, that the Lewis family moved from Sardina to Allegany sometime between 1874 and 1879 as that is where Leroy was from. That means that the Lewis family probably lived in Allegany from 1879 to at least 1907, which is the time that Clair and Ada were married. No research has been conducted yet as to any records of this family or what Oren/Oreen might have done in the area other than carpentry. However, it seems an appropriate trade since the logging industry was fairly important during those years.

\* \* \* \*

**9. The Story of Ethan Allen: 1738-1789**

"The Ethan Allen story first traces its origins back to three brothers... Samuel, (Ethan's father), Thomas and Matthew, members of the Dorchester Company, who as young men set out together from Braintree, England in Captain Squeb's barque, landing in Nantasket, Connecticut in 1632. The brothers Allen (or Allyn, for they themselves could never quite agree on a common spelling) settled in Newtowne in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and there they lived and worked the land for better than three years.

However, in 1636, they chose to follow the lead of their beloved pastor, Thomas Hooker, and together with a goodly number of their Newtowne neighbors, migrated inland to make a new start in the sparsely settled frontier areas of the Connecticut Valley. Samuel died in 1648.

It was the first of many such moves for a long and fruitful line of Allens who would spend the next century and a half on the go, moving restlessly from here to there, as if drawn by some secret compulsion to a point just beyond the next horizon where battle might be joined once more with the wilderness.

Samuel's great grandson was Joseph Allen and had a large and prosperous farm in the little town of Litchfield, situated near the near the western frontier of Connecticut. He had married Mary Baker of nearby Roxbury prior to the move to Litchfield.. On January 10, 1737, their first child born was Ethan Allen. The Litchfield Vital Records list January 10. The old style calendar was in use then. By present day methods, Ethan was born on January 21. Ethan in Hebrew means strong. Joseph died in April of 1755.

Ethan was the oldest of 8 Allen children. The others, 6 boys and 2 girls were, in order of birth, Heman, Lydia, Heber, Levi, Lucy, Zimri, and Ira.

Not much is known about Ethan as a child...but he is a most interesting and prolific historical figure in the history of Vermont and the New England States. Ethan moved to the "New Hampshire Grants" in 1769 of which the Green Mountains formed part and which later became the State of Vermont. His exploits as Commander of the Green Mountain Boys include the capture of Fort Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775, and the victory at the Battle of Bennington on August 17, 1777, which was one of the key victories in the Revolution.. He was a British prisoner for two years and on his release wrote a pamphlet "The Narrative".about his captivity which was patriotic propaganda that, like Tom Paine's "Common Sense", incited the Colonists.



Before, during and after the Revolutionary War, using his considerable political skills, Ethan was a principal figure in the movement which led to the separation of the "New Hampshire Grants" from the State of New York and eventual Statehood for Vermont. Two years after his death in 1789, Vermont was admitted as the 14<sup>th</sup> State of the United States, and historians credit Ethan as being largely responsible for this taking place.

**Note:** It is an interesting historical note that Gen. John Barr (recently deceased), who was the Commander of the "Green Mountain Boys" in the 1780's, (also known as the Vermont National Guard) was the first cousin of Anne Minot Barr Wenzel, wife of Howard Wenzel a Mc/MaGavern family member from the 1<sup>st</sup> family descendents.

**Ethan's family tree:**

Ethan Allen,	(1738-1789)	
1 <sup>st</sup> wife: Mary Brownson	(1732-1783)	married: 1762
had 5 children:		
Lorraine Allen	(1763-1783)	unmarried
Joseph Allen	(1765-1777)	unmarried
Lucy Caroline Allen	(1768-1842)	married: Judge Samuel Hitchcock:
1789		
Mary Ann (Maryan) Allen	(1772-1790)	unmarried
Pamelia Allen	(1779-1809)	married: Eleazer W. Keyes: 1803

2<sup>nd</sup> wife: Frances Montessor Brush Buchan (1760-1834) married: 1784  
 had 3 children

Frances (Fanny) Margaret Allen (1786-1819) unmarried

Note: Fanny Allen, became converted to Catholicism as a teen, temporarily worked for the Hospitaliers of St. Joseph in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. In correspondence with Michael J. Badamo of West Point, On May 24, 2001, he indicated that Fanny had at least one son named Ethan Allen Hitchcock, who was also a graduate of West Point and served a distinguished career in the army in the Civil War era. He was an engineer and wrote at least one book. It is the Hitchcock family of Burlington. He didn't know anymore about the other two Allen boys who also attended West Point earlier, Hannibal and Ethan Voltaire Allen..

Hannibal Montessor Allen (1787-1813)

Hannibal Allen, born November 24, 1787, died 1813: attended and graduated from West Point and went on to serve with honors in the army.

married: Agnes Bodine Low: 1808 (no children)

Ethan Voltaire (Alphonso)Allen (1789-1855)

Ethan Alphonso Allen, Born October 24, 1789-died 1855: attended and graduated from West Point went on to serve with honors in the army.

married: 1<sup>st</sup> wife: Mary Susanna Johnson: 1817

Ethan Voltaire and Mary had one child: (wife must have died during childbirth)

Ethan Alphonso Allen II (1818-1889)

married: Eliza Schyler: 1844

married: 2<sup>nd</sup> wife: Martha Washington Johnson: 1820

Ethan Voltaire and Martha had 1 child:

Mary Robertine Allen (1829-1906)

married: Andrew Weir: 1848



Mrs. A. Harriet Allen - wife of  
E. J. Allen  
1891  
STERNEN WELSH