

# **Allensworth--Facts at a Glance**

*From the Docent Manual*

<b><i>Year Allensworth was Founded:</i></b>	1908
<b><i>Founding Corporation:</i></b>	California Home Promoting and Colonization Association
<b><i>Official Name of Subdivision:</i></b>	Tract of the California Colony and Home Promoting Association
<b><i>Corporation which Promoted the Town:</i></b>	California Home Promoting and Colonization Association
<b><i>Organization that Owned the Land:</i></b>	Pacific Farming Company
<b><i>Principal Promoters:</i></b>	Colonel Allen Allensworth Professor William Payne Mr. Journee White
<b><i>Size of the Tract:</i></b>	3000 acres
<b><i>Average Size of Town Lots:</i></b>	50 feet x 100 feet
<b><i>Rural Parcel Size:</i></b>	One to Twenty Acres
<b><i>Original Name of the Town Site:</i></b>	Solito
<b><i>Major Transportation Route:</i></b>	Santa Fe Railroad Central Valley Road (now Highway 43)
<b><i>Number of Pioneer Settlers between 1908 – 1920</i></b>	200 men, women, and children
<b><i>School District Established:</i></b>	1912
<b><i>First School Board Members:</i></b>	Mrs. Josephine Allensworth, Chair Mrs. Overt, Clerk Mr. W.H. Hall
<b><i>Judicial District Established:</i></b>	1914
<b><i>First Justice of the Peace:</i></b>	Oscar Overt

*First Constable:* William H. Dotson

*First Postmistress of Allensworth Post Office:*  
Mary Jane Bickers, 1909

*Cemetery District Established:* November 9, 1918

*First Cemetery District Trustees:*  
James Hackett  
Joshua Singleton  
Laura Smith

*Tulare County Rural Library Established:* 1914

## **Town Business Establishments**

*Allensworth Hotel*  
Established in 1910  
Proprietors: Mr. and Mrs. John and Clara Morris (1910-1915)  
Mrs. Elvia Woods (1916-1917)  
Mrs. Nannie Coleman (1917-1922)  
Mrs. Regiaina Mattlox (1922-1924)  
Mrs. Alice Hackett (1924-1927)

*Hindsman and Company General Store:*  
Established 1911  
Proprietors: Mr. and Mrs. Zebedee and Sarah Hindsman

*Singleton General Store:*  
Established 1912  
Proprietors: Mr. and Mrs. Joshua and Henrietta Singleton

*Scott-Gross Drug and Variety Store:*  
Established 1912  
Proprietor: Mrs. Mary Gross

*Carter Livery Stable:*  
Established 1912  
Proprietor: Mr. Elmer Carter

*Milner's Barber Shop:*  
Established 1911  
Proprietor: Mr. Frank Milner

***Johnson Bakery:***

Established 1912

Proprietor: Mrs. Mattie Johnson

***Bickers General Store:***

Established 1909

Proprietor: Mrs. Mary Jane Bickers

This was the first business to open in Allensworth

***Dotson Restaurant:***

Established 1912

Proprietors: Mr. and Mrs. William H. and Louise Dotson

## Allensworth Families and the Areas They Migrated From

<i>Family Name</i>	<i>Town</i>
Rainbow	Junction City, Kansas
Archers	Russell Springs, Kansas
Payne	Pasadena, California
Hall	Bakersfield, California
Dotson	Oakland, California
Hacketts	Alameda, California
Smiths	Colorado Springs, Colorado
Hindsman	Iowa
Bickers	Bakersfield, California
Johnson	Oakland, California
Phillips	Madison Barracks, New York
Carter	Missouri
Stockett	Oakland, California

## Biographies of the Principal Founders

### *Colonel Allen Allensworth*

Allensworth was born into slavery April 7, 1842 in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1854, he was sold down river for attempting to learn to read and write. Allensworth was purchased by Fred Scruggs and trained as a racehorse rifer in 1855. In April 1863, he joined the United States Navy. On April 4 1865, he was honorably discharged from the U. S. Navy. About 1870, he began religious studies. April 9, 1871, He was ordained a minister. March 12, 1883, he was certified as a teacher. November 20, 1884, he applied for appointment as a U.S. Army Chaplain. April 1, 1886, he was appointed Chaplain to the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry with a Captain's rank. On April 7, 1906, he retired from the U.S. Army as a Lt. Colonel, the highest rank ever achieved by a U.S. Army Chaplain and the highest ranking black officer of his time. In 1906 he moved to Los Angeles. He founded the town of Allensworth in 1908.

### *William Payne*

He was born in West Virginia in 1879. He was raised in Ohio where his father worked as a coal miner. He graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio in 1906. He worked as a Professor of English at West Virginia Colored Institute until 1904. He moved to Pasadena, California in 1906. He worked as a janitor between 1906 and 1908 because local districts refused to hire Negro teachers. Is one of the Founding Fathers of Allensworth in 1908.