

**ETHAN ALLEN. THE  
ROBIN HOOD  
OF VERMONT**

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Ethan Allen. The Robin Hood of Vermont by Henry Hall

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**HENRY HALL**

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## PREFACE.

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AT the time of the death of Mr. Henry Hall, in 1889, the manuscript for this volume consisted of finished fragments and many notes. It was left in the hands of his daughters to complete. The purpose of the author was to make a fuller life of Allen than has been written, and singling him from that cluster of sturdy patriots in the New Hampshire Grants, to make plain the vivid personality of a Vermont hero to the younger generations. Mr. Hall's well-known habit of accuracy and painstaking investigation must be the guaranty that this "Life" is worthy of a place among the volumes of the history of our nation.

HENRIETTA HALL BOARDMAN.

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## CONTENTS.

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	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
AN ACCOUNT OF ALLEN'S FAMILY, . . . . .	1
CHAPTER II.	
EARLY LIFE, HABITS OF THOUGHT, AND RELIGIOUS TENDENCIES, . . . . .	12
CHAPTER III.	
REMOVAL TO VERMONT.—THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GRANTS, . . . . .	22
CHAPTER IV.	
ALLEN AND THE GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS.—NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN NEW YORK AND THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GRANTS, . . . . .	32
CHAPTER V.	
THE RAID UPON COLONEL REID'S SETTLERS.—ALLEN'S OUTLAWRY. — CREAN BRUSH.—PHILIP SKENE, . . . . .	46

## CHAPTER VI.

	PAGE
PREPARATIONS TO CAPTURE TICONDEROGA.— DIARY OF EDWARD MOTT.—EXPEDITIONS PLANNED.—BENEDICT ARNOLD.—GERSHOM BEACH, . . . . .	61

## CHAPTER VII.

CAPTURE OF TICONDEROGA, . . . . .	73
-----------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER VIII.

ALLEN'S LETTERS TO THE CONTINENTAL CON- GRESS, TO THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CON- GRESS, AND TO THE MASSACHUSETTS CON- GRESS, . . . . .	81
---	----

## CHAPTER IX.

ALLEN'S LETTERS TO THE MONTREAL MERCHANTS, TO THE INDIANS IN CANADA, AND TO THE CANADIANS.—JOHN BROWN, . . . . .	89
--	----

## CHAPTER X.

WARNER ELECTED COLONEL OF THE GREEN MOUN- TAIN BOYS.—ALLEN'S LETTER TO GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.—CORRESPONDENCE IN REGARD TO THE INVASION OF CANADA.—ATTACK ON MON- TREAL.—DEFEAT AND CAPTURE.—WARNER'S REPORT, . . . . .	98
---	----

## CHAPTER XI.

PAGE

ALLEN'S NARRATIVE.—ATTACK ON MONTREAL.— DEFEAT AND SURRENDER.—BRUTAL TREAT- MENT.—ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND.—DEBATES IN PARLIAMENT, . . . . .	110
---	-----

## CHAPTER XII.

LIFE IN PENDENNIS CASTLE.—LORD NORTH.— ON BOARD THE "SOLEBAY."—ATTENTIONS RECEIVED IN IRELAND AND MADEIRA, . . .	128
--	-----

## CHAPTER XIII.

RENDEZVOUS AT CAPE FEAR.—SICKNESS.—HALI- FAX JAIL.—LETTER TO GENERAL MASSEY.— VOYAGE TO NEW YORK.—ON PAROLE, . . .	144
--	-----

## CHAPTER XIV.

RELEASE FROM PRISON.—WITH WASHINGTON AT VALLEY FORGE.—THE HALDIMAND CORRE- SPONDENCE, . . . . .	162
---	-----

## CHAPTER XV.

VERMONT'S TREATMENT BY CONGRESS.—ALLEN'S LETTERS TO COLONEL WEBSTER AND TO CON- GRESS.—REASONS FOR BELIEVING ALLEN A PATRIOT, . . . . .	173
--	-----



## CHAPTER XVI.

	PAGE
ALLEN WITH GATES.—AT BENNINGTON.—DAVID REDDING.—REPLY TO CLINTON.—EMBASSIES TO CONGRESS.—COMPLAINT AGAINST BROTH-ER LEVI.—ALLEN IN COURT, . . . . .	183

## CHAPTER XVII.

ALLEN AT GUILFORD.—"ORACLES OF REASON."—JOHN STARK.—ST. JOHN DE CRÈVECŒUR.—HONORS TO ALLEN.—SHAY'S REBELLION.—SECOND MARRIAGE, . . . . .	191
--	-----

## CHAPTER XVIII.

DEATH.—CIVILIZATION IN ALLEN'S TIME.—ESTIMATES OF ALLEN.—RELIGIOUS FEELING IN VERMONT.—MONUMENTS, . . . . .	198
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# ETHAN ALLEN.

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## CHAPTER I.

### AN ACCOUNT OF HIS FAMILY.

ETHAN ALLEN is the Robin Hood of Vermont. As Robin Hood's life was an Anglo-Saxon protest against Norman despotism, so Allen's life was a protest against domestic robbery and foreign tyranny. As Sherwood Forest was the rendezvous of the gallant and chivalrous Robin Hood, so the Green Mountains were the home of the dauntless and high-minded Ethan Allen. As Robin Hood, in Scott's "Ivanhoe," so does Allen, in Thompson's "Green Mountain Boys," win our admiration. Although never a citizen of the United States, he is one of the heroes of the state and the nation; one of those whose names the people will not willingly let die. History and tradition, song and story, sculpt-

ure, engraving, and photography alike blazon his memory from ocean to ocean. The librarian of the great library at Worcester, Massachusetts, told Colonel Higginson that the book most read was Daniel P. Thompson's "Green Mountain Boys." Already one centennial celebration of the capture of Ticonderoga has been celebrated. Who can tell how many future anniversaries of that capture our nation will live to see! Another reason for refreshing our memories with the history of Allen is the bitterness with which he is attacked. He has been accused of ignorance, weakness of mind, cowardice, infidelity, and atheism. Among his assailants have been the president of a college, a clergyman, editors, contributors to magazines and newspapers, and even a local historian among a variety of writers of greater or less prominence. If Vermont is careful of her own fame, well does it become the people to know whether Ethan Allen was a hero or a humbug.

Arnold calls history the vast Mississippi of falsehood. The untruths that have been published about Allen during the last hundred and fifteen years might not fill and overflow the Ohio branch of such a Mississippi, but