

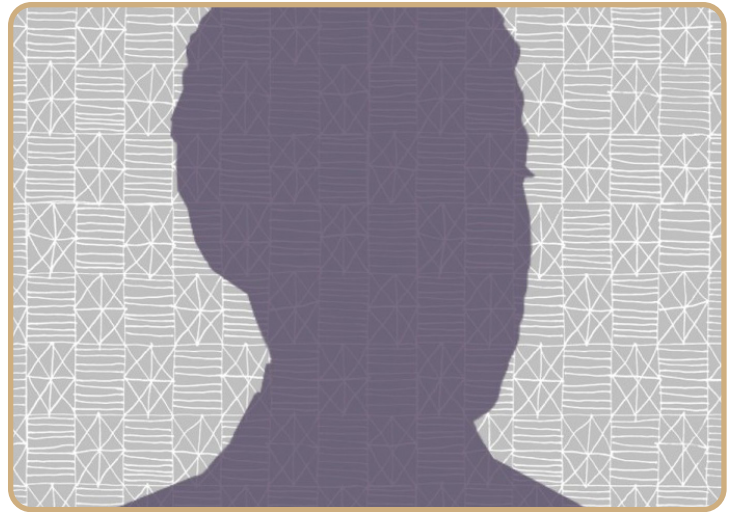
Dudley Allen

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Places: Lexington, Kentucky; Cynthiana, Kentucky; Paris, Kentucky; Louisville, Kentucky; Helena, Arkansas; Harlem, Clay County, Missouri

Birth: March 1846 **Death:** October 22, 1911

Professions: Stable Owner, Horse Owner, Trainer, Cavalry Soldier



Childhood and Family

Dudley Allen was born in Lexington, Kentucky. John Dunn enslaved him.¹ Differences about his birth date were found in his military records. However, the 1900 census gives the date of March 1846.² His father's name was Hosea. Researchers are still looking for records of his mother's name.³

Freedom and Military Service

Allen became free when he enlisted with the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War on August 29, 1864. He served in Company M, 5th Cavalry and, as a quartermaster sergeant. He was responsible for the company wagon and all the property it contained, as well as the care of horses and mules. Allen was discharged along with the rest of his regiment in Helena, Arkansas on March 16, 1866.⁴

Community and Career

Allen returned to Lexington and married Margaret Crittenden in 1870.⁵ They purchased a home in East Lexington in Kinkeadtown, a community located close to the Kentucky Association track. This is where Allen trained the horses in his own stable. It was during this time that Allen launched his 40-year career as an owner and trainer.

Allen's stable was well-regarded and employed others, including his wife's nephew. Allen worked as a trainer for the Runnymede Stud Farm, as well as individual owners including Thomas Jefferson Megibben (founder and president of the Latonia Race Course). Allen also was a part owner along with Kinzea Stone of Jacobin Stable in Georgetown, Kentucky.⁶

The 1891 Kentucky Derby

The highlight of Allen's career was the 1891 Kentucky Derby. Kingman, trained and owned by Allen, won with Isaac Murphy aboard. Jacobin Stables registered Kingman for the race, as it would have been too controversial to outright list Allen as the horse's owner. Allen and Murphy were the last African American owner-jockey pair to win the Derby in its history.⁷

Death and Legacy

Allen passed away at his home in 1911 due to kidney and heart disease. He was buried at the National Military Cemetery in the Lexington Cemetery. His wife followed him in death in 1919 and she was buried in Cove Haven Cemetery, also in Lexington, Kentucky. Allen's legacy endures in his winning record with Isaac Murphy, and as the first and only African American horse owner to win a Kentucky Derby.⁸

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Footnotes

¹Military Records.

²1900 Clay County, Missouri Census.

³Death Certificate: Dudley Allen.

⁴Dyer, A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, 1908.

⁵Fayette County Colored Marriage Record.

⁶"Horses in Training."

⁷Giles, "Dudley Allen."

⁸"African Americans in the Derby."