

Jonathan M. Allen



The second president of Alfred University, Jonathan Macomber Allen, was born in Alfred on January 26, 1823. He was a member of the first graduating class of Alfred's Select School. He received his degree from Oberlin in 1849 and returned to Alfred as a teacher of mathematics. While in Oberlin he worked with the Underground Railroad. On July 12, 1849 he married [Abigail Maxson](#). The couple would eventually have three children: May, Evangel, and Alfred. He was constantly searching for knowledge. He was an expert in the fields of: mathematics, philosophy, English, zoology, Hebrew, ancient history, and modern history. One of the original founders of the university, Allen was selected to replace President Kenyon in 1865. Throughout his career President Allen was given three honorary degrees; Doctor of Philosophy from the University of the State of New York in 1873, Doctor of Divinity from University of Kansas in 1874 or 1875, and Doctor of Laws from Alfred University in 1886. Jonathan Allen remained president of Alfred University until he died in his home on September 21, 1892, due to heart failure.