

## The Allee-DuPont Connection

On October 6, 1824, Dorcas Van Dyke married Charles Irenee du Pont. She was the daughter of Senator Nicholas Van Dyke, and he was the son of Victor Marie du Pont de Nemours. The wedding was held in the home of Senator Van Dyke at 300 Delaware Street, New Castle, Delaware. Marquis de la Fayette attended the wedding and is reported to have kissed the bride.

Dorcas was the great granddaughter of Rachel Allee Van Dyke. Rachel was Abraham Allee's sister, and Abraham was the builder of the Allee House.

Rachel Allee Van Dyke was the youngest daughter of John Allee (circa 1665 – 1718) and his first wife, Susanna LaRoe Helling. Rachel was born in 1708, and she married Nicholas Van Dyke in 1734. She was a widow – she had married Captain James Tybout in 1732, but he died the following year, in 1733.

Rachel and Nicholas Van Dyke had a son, also named Nicholas, who was born in 1738. He was a major in the militia of Newcastle County (now New Castle), Delaware. In 1774 he was a member of the Committee of Correspondence, and he was Deputy to the Constitutional Convention of 1776. From 1777 to 1783 he was a member of the Continental Congress, and from 1783 until 1789, he was President of the Delaware State (under the Articles of Confederation each state had a president rather than a governor, and Delaware was known as "The Delaware State"). He died in 1789 while still in office.

"President" Nicholas Van Dike also had a son, and he too was named Nicholas. Like his father he also was active in politics. He served in the United States Senate from 1817 until his death in 1826, and he was known as "Senator" Nicholas Van Dyke to differentiate him from his father who was known as "President" Nicholas Van Dyke. Prior to his election to the United States Senate, he was a member of the United States House of Representatives in 1807 and 1809. He also served in the Delaware Assembly and was Delaware's Attorney General. And he was the bride's father.

Victor Marie du Pont de Nemours, the father of the groom, Charles Irenee du Pont, was the older son of Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours. Victor Marie was born in 1767 and died in 1827. He was aide-de-camp to General de la Fayette and served in the French Foreign Service before immigrating to the United States

in 1799. He became an American citizen and served in the Delaware General Assembly and as a captain in a Delaware company during the War of 1812.

The groom, Charles Irene du Pont, was born in 1797 in Charleston, South Carolina, where his father was serving the French Consul General. He was involved in manufacturing, but also served as a member of the Delaware Senate, and was president of Farmers Bank of Delaware. After his first wife, Dorcas Van Dyke du Pont, died, he married Ann Ridgely.

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