

ELIZABETH ROBINS, 1862–1952

*Actress, Novelist, Feminist*

JOANNE E. GATES

American expatriate Elizabeth Robins was a remarkable woman of her times. She was more instrumental than any other single performer in the staging of Ibsen plays in England in the 1890s.

Robins wrote about her part in a changing theater world with a sense of female difference. Many unpublished novels and stories reveal how she used her own life as the source of her fiction. She transformed her long personal history of ill-health and poor medical treatment into feminist concerns. At many points in her life, Elizabeth Robins confronted deep, personal crises, and her fiction is marked by a number of true-life components: the formative experiences of her childhood, an actress's coming of age, a husband's flirtation with suicide, a widow's freedom to sacrifice a second romance for independence, and the abuses of the rest cure treatment.

Robins published several novels under the pseudonym C. E. Raimond, culminating in the sensational male-female bildungsroman, *The Open Question: A Tale of Two Temperaments*, which was set in her native Zanesville, Ohio, and publication of which disclosed her identity. Robins contracted to write journal articles prior to her 1900 trip to Alaska, so she carefully documented her travels and used her personal journal as the source for two novels, the memoir of her brother Raymond Robins, and many stories and articles, all based on life experiences that touched her audiences and created a strong following.

Her fiction is compared to that of Henry James, Edith Wharton, and Willa Cather. Many of her heroines share the characteristics of exhibiting forced or willed silence,

After 1906, she participated in the organized effort to win the vote for women in England and formulated a more feminist aesthetic in her fiction. Her political activity extended to many women's issues, including white slave traffic, the plight of working women in postwar England, and the dangers of rearmament. Her writing on behalf of women's suffrage and other women's issues in the first quarter of the 20th century represents an important contribution to feminist politics.

From childhood, Elizabeth Robins dreamed of a successful career on the stage. Her first impulse to visit England, in 1888, stemmed from her desire to secure better opportunities as an actress, and she soon gained celebrity playing Ibsen's heroines. While buoyed by this success, she began writing fiction that treated the feminist issues of her time: organized prostitution, women's positions in war-torn England, and the dangers of rearmament. In her acting, writing, and political activism, she consistently challenged existing roles for women. Robins's work is marked by a number of true-life components, and this first biography to use the vast collection of her private papers demonstrates how thoroughly Robins transformed her own life into literary and dramatic capital.

L.P. Bailey was born in Budd's Ferry, Pennsylvania. He learned the trade of furniture making in Pittsburgh as a young man, and then came to Zanesville in 1820 to manufacture organs, pianos, and furniture. He built his first instrument, a parlor pipe organ, in 1822, and his first piano in about 1833. The 1850 Ohio Industry Schedule lists Bailey as a piano and cabinetmaker employing five men in the production of pianos and furniture for a value of \$2,000 in that year. He retired from business in 1861.

Bailey's account book, which records transactions from 1824 to 1829, and several notebooks, dating from 1838 to 1868, provide a rare opportunity to study the business of an Ohio cabinetmaker.<sup>6</sup> According to the account book, a curly maple picture frame cost \$1.75, a high post bedstead \$14, a column bureau \$18, a pillar and scroll washstand \$10, a pembroke table \$4.50, a clock case \$15, and nine chairs were painted and decorated for \$6.62.

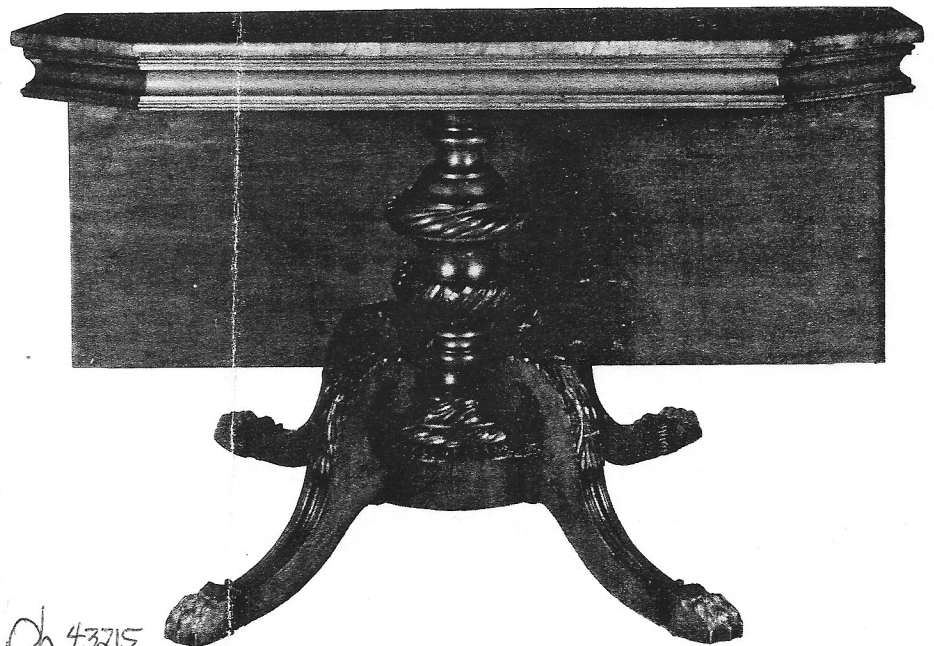
In his later notebooks, Bailey records his inventory of tools in 1847: hammers, a sash saw, a dovetail saw, bow saws, pen knives, and screwdrivers. Woods purchased in the same year included mahogany, walnut, rosewood, white holly, and bird's-eye maple, as well as mahogany,

rosewood, maple, holly, and satinwood veneers. A variety of hardware was purchased: hinges, knobs, locks, and escutcheons. It is interesting to note that Bailey also brought chair backs from New York in 1852, as well as piano legs, carved legs, and a carved lyre from an unidentified source. Bailey's notebooks also include some very fine sketches of furniture.

This table made by Bailey, which is half of a full banquet table, has descended through the Bailey family to its present owner, the maker's great-granddaughter. It is distinguished by the elaborately executed pediment, which features rope carving and acanthus leaf decoration, scrolled legs with leaf carving, and brass claw feet. When the drop leaf is extended, the total length of this section of the banquet table is forty-two inches.

Several other Bailey pieces are in private collections in the Zanesville area, including an Empire style sideboard, which was made for the Rev. James Culbertson in 1826 for a price of \$88. An upholstered chair attributed to Bailey is in the collection of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County.

Banquet Table ca 1840. Leonard Perry Bailey, 1797-1877. Zanesville, Muskingum County. Cherry. 28"h, 46"w, 22"d. Collection of Mrs. Vincent Linn



Made In Ohio Furniture  
1788-1888, pg. 77  
Columbus Museum of Art  
480 East Broad St., Col. Oh 43215  
Feb 12-March 25, 1984

#### BANQUET TABLE

ca 1840

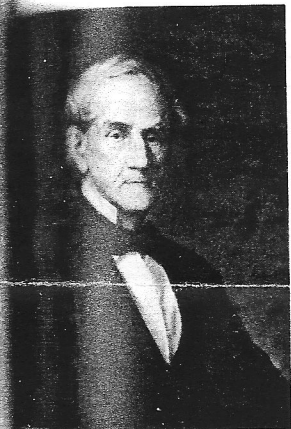
made by Leonard Perry Bailey,

1797-1877

Zanesville, Muskingum County

28" h, 46" w, 22" d

Collection of Mrs. Vincent Linn



Portrait of Leonard Perry Bailey (attributed to),  
Pierce Barton, n.d., oil on canvas.  
Collection of Mrs. Vincent Linn.

## Lawrence Allwine (1756 - 1833)<sup>1</sup>

Duane F. Alwin<sup>2</sup>  
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Lawrence Allwine was born in Pennsylvania on July 16, 1756.<sup>3</sup> It is believed that he was one of the youngest of eight children born to Hans Jacob and Catharina Allwein, who settled in Bern Township of what would eventually become Berks County. The Allweins were part of the massive German immigration to Pennsylvania in the mid-1700s. We know little more about the family, except that the father probably acquired land and engaged in farming, as was the case for the majority of German immigrants during those times.

Although records are sparse on this point, it is believed that Lawrence Allwine served in the American Revolution for some period of time between 1775 and the end of war. He is listed in the centennial edition of the *Daughters of the American Revolution Patriot Index* and his name appears in the *Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications in the National Archives*. By his own account, he unsuccessfully petitioned the government on several occasions for pension support, and it was not granted until 1833, six months before his death.<sup>4</sup> Two men believed to be Lawrence's brothers, Conrad and Barnhard Allwein, are listed in various places as also having served in the revolution.<sup>5</sup>

Early census records indicate that in the years following the American Revolution Lawrence Allwine settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he was engaged in furniture making. He is listed in the city of Philadelphia by the name "Lewis Alwine" in the first census of the United States taken in the year 1790. His occupation is given as Windsor chair maker. In the 1800 Pennsylvania Census he is listed as "Lawrence Allwine" and also living in Philadelphia.

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<sup>2</sup>This information is taken from the author's unpublished monograph *Familie Allwein: A Personal Genealogy*, Ann Arbor MI, 2000.

<sup>3</sup>The original family name was Allwein. Although many people still go by that name, from the second generation on many changed it to Allwine, or Alwine, or even to Alwin. In the earliest records his first name is spelled Laurence rather than Lawrence and these sources also suggest that he went by the name Lewis as well.

<sup>4</sup>One Alwine descendant has copies of letters written by Lawrence in which he petitioned Congress to grant him a pension.

<sup>5</sup>The name of Barney Allwine is given in Vol. 1, page 517, *Pennsylvania Line in the Revolution*. He served as private in the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment, Continental Line, under Sergeant Major John Allison, May 11, 1778. Conrad Allwein is listed in the *Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots* by Patricia Law Hatcher.

His presence there, as well as his occupation, is confirmed by the early city directories for Philadelphia. In these records he is listed in virtually every year between 1791 and 1809 at the same address, 99 South Front Street, although the last name is variously listed as Alwaine, Allwaine, or Allwine, and in the later years he was listed with different addresses. His occupation is consistently given as Windsor chair maker. Although we have no record of this, it is believed he was married but the name of his wife is not known.

By all accounts sometime around 1809 or 1810 Lawrence Allwine moved his family to southeastern Ohio, settling in the area of Zanesville in Muskingum County. Although it has not been confirmed, it is a strong possibility that Lawrence was able to claim land in Ohio on a bounty land warrant issued to him on the basis of his military service. Under the Military Bounty Land Acts of 1788 and 1803, Congress granted public lands to veterans and heirs of veterans of the Revolutionary War, and under an act of June 1, 1796 a U.S. military district in Ohio was reserved solely for the use of these warrants. We do not, however, have any information of a specific nature that would clarify what were the land holdings of Lawrence Allwine or how they were acquired.

Lawrence Allwine's reputation as a furniture maker followed him to Ohio, although there is no evidence that he plied this trade after he left Pennsylvania. The Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County in Zanesville, Ohio has two pieces of his furniture from Philadelphia on exhibit at the old Stone Academy building located in the historic Putnam district of Zanesville. One is a Windsor chair and the other is a long bench made in the same style that was probably used in a church or public meeting house. Both pieces bear the stamp "L. ALLWINE, Phila" on the underside.

An early township history for Blue Rock Township of Muskingum County indicates that in Ohio Lawrence (Lewis) Allwine ran a tavern just north of Gaysport, which is about 10 miles to the south of Zanesville on the Muskingum River. Blue Rock Township was formed from existing governing units around 1810. The historical record indicates that the first township elections were held January 6th, 1814 at the house of Lawrence Allwine, at which meeting he was elected as one of the first Justices of the Peace for the township. It was in this capacity that he officiated at the first marriage in the township, that of Stephen Reeves to Mary Briggs.<sup>6</sup>

We do not have a great deal of genealogical information about the descendants of Lawrence Alwine, but it is believed that he and his wife had (at least) four children: Westley,

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<sup>6</sup>The sources of this historical information are: J. Hope Sutor, *Past and Present of the City of Zanesville and Muskingum County, Ohio*, Chicago: Arke Publishing Co., 1905; and *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Muskingum County, Ohio*, Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1892.

Barnhard, Anna and Eliza.<sup>7</sup> Muskingum County records the following marriages:

Anna Allwine married Henry Brown on January 11, 1811

Eliza Allwine married James Hutchins on January 23, 1817

Barnhard Allwine married Jane Worley on June 23, 1822.

As far as we can tell these were all civil marriages as the records give no indication of what were the religious affiliations of the marriage partners. Catholic parish records from Somerset, Ohio, however, list the baptism of Johanna Mary Brown, February 6, 1834, daughter of Henry Brown and Anna Allwine, so we can assume that one or both parents were Catholic. After the death of his first wife, Lawrence married Phoebe Worley on September 2, 1821 in Perry County in a Lutheran church.<sup>8</sup> We do not know very much about the religious affiliation of Lawrence Allwine's parents, although there has been considerable speculation suggesting that they were Mennonite, Catholic, or Reformed Protestant.<sup>9</sup>

We can safely assume that most of the Allwine families residing in southeastern Ohio over the past two centuries are descendants of Lawrence Allwine. Indexes to the 1820 Ohio Census list two Allwines in Muskingum County: Lawrence living in Putnam Township and Westley in Zanesville. The 1830 Census of Ohio again lists Lawrence along with Westley, and by then, Barnhard. Westley Allwine apparently lived most of his life in Zanesville and appears in tax records for Muskingum County. He was a painter. He had several sons, among whom were Alex, Harry, Miles, Charles, John and William, but little else is known about this family.<sup>10</sup> Barnhard settled in Perry County residing for a time in Clayton Township and later further south in Monroe Township. Considerably more is known about his family than other descendants of Lawrence Allwine.

Toward the end of his life Lawrence had also moved to Perry County -- in the area of Somerset, Ohio -- and he died there in October of 1833. By the late 1800s there were many Allwine families who were descendants of Lawrence Allwine scattered throughout southeastern Ohio. Although there are a few Allwines living in Zanesville today, the name virtually disappeared from the Census records of Muskingum County by 1850. Based on Census records over the past century we see that the main concentrations of Allwines in this part of Ohio were in Perry County and to a lesser extent in Fairfield, Guernsey, Morgan, and Noble Counties.

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<sup>7</sup>This conclusion is based on census and marriage records for Muskingum and Perry counties.

<sup>8</sup>Lawrence married Phoebe Worley, the sister of Jane Worley, Barnard Allwine's wife. Phoebe was many years younger than Lawrence. She was born in 1799 and died about 1872.

<sup>9</sup>See Duane F. Alwin, *The Religious Roots of Familie Allwein*, Ann Arbor MI, 1999.

<sup>10</sup>These names are listed in the *Zanesville Daily Courier* in an article published in March, 1873 containing reminiscences about "The Boys of 1825." See *Muskingum Annals*, Number 5.