



1906 Legacy Descendant bio – Farrow Allen

Farrow Allen is the grandson of Luther Judson Price, South Atlanta’s first African American postmaster who was threatened by a mob during the 1906 Atlanta Race Massacre. Now retired and living in Asheville, N.C., Allen was born several years after his grandfather died in 1936 and heard stories about him from his mother.

Born into slavery in middle Georgia, Price became one of the first graduates of Clark University after the Civil War. He ran a general store and post office in a South Atlanta neighborhood known as Brownsville and was considered a respected community leader.

“My mother said he was a proud and protective man,” Allen says. “She told a story about a white salesman who asked how his wife was doing, but he used her first name. That offended my grandfather and he threw him out of the store. He had no fear.”

On the third night of massacre in 1906, county police officers and vigilantes invaded Brownsville, sparking a series of gun battles. Price was arrested on suspicion of furnishing weapons and ammunition to his neighbors. According to family lore, the arrest was something of a ruse. He had many friends among political leaders, and one of them made sure that he was removed from the scene of the violence.

“One story we’ve heard is that the governor had him spirited away and locked up in jail for his own safety,” Allen says. “He left when he was ready to leave.”

Price was thought of so highly that almost two decades after his death, the Atlanta school system named a high school for him near where he had lived. The tribute lives on in Luther J. Price Middle School. Allen and his family, then living outside New York City, came to the dedication in 1954. Allen had heard so many stories about mistreatment of African Americans in the South from his parents that he was apprehensive. “I was terrified of the South,” he says. “I thought they went around lynching Black people left and right.”

Allen went to college in New York with the thought of becoming an artist. In his late 20s, he moved to a farm in rural Vermont and opened a shop specializing in

fly fishing. He later moved to New Hampshire and wrote five books about fly fishing with Dick Stewart, another authority on the subject.

Allen and his wife, Mardi Kjartansson, are looking forward to visiting his grandfather's house and post office in Brownsville / South Atlanta. Both are still standing. The post office has been renovated while the house is undergoing restoration as a project of the PBS series "This Old House."

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