ALLEN STREET

James Penn, a ruling elder of the church, lived in a mansion at the corner of Tremont and Beacon Street; he also owned an 18-acre pasture in the New Fields between the estates of Major John Leverett and Captain Davis (the predecessor of Charles Chambers). Upon his death in 1671, he left his pasture to his nephew the Reverend James Allen, who made a deed of settlement in 1706 and in 1710 devised his lands in accordance therewith. He vested the land in his son, John Allen, and this 20 acre farm of John Allen embraced all the lands west and north of Chambers’ four-acre pasture.

John Allen extended Chambers Street c. 1728 northerly through his lands, bending westerly toward the Charles River becoming a 30-foot highway, known for many years as Allen’s Highway or Wiltshire Street. On later maps, this short pass-through becomes Chambers Street and the extension westward becomes North Allen Street (later Allen St.) which was the boundary between Allen’s and Leverett’s pastures.

Next to William Blackstone, James Allen had been one of the largest land owners in early Boston. All of the land that MGH is on was part of Allen’s pasture. Allen Street was reconfigured during Urban Renewal and is now part of Cardinal O’Connell Way.