

HALL, GEORGE B. (?-?). George B. Hall, one of Stephen F. Austin's^{qv} Old Three Hundred^{qv} colonists, was a partner of Samuel T. Angier and Thomas W. Bradley.^{qv} They received title to a sitio^{qv} of land in what is now Brazoria County on August 16, 1824. A letter from Angier and Hall in May 1827 indicated that they planned to select land on Chocolate Bayou.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Eugene C. Barker, ed., *The Austin Papers* (3 vols., Washington: GPO, 1924-28). Lester G. Bugbee, "The Old Three Hundred: A List of Settlers in Austin's First Colony," *Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association* 1 (October 1897).

HALL, HENRY BOYD (1899-1974). Henry Boyd Hall, equal rights advocate, was born to Thomas Edward and Annie (Boyd) Hall at Palestine, Texas, in 1899. His father was a traveling minister from Tennessee. After graduating from the all-black Lincoln High School at Palestine, Hall earned degrees from Tennessee State University and Meharry Medical and Dental College. He worked as a dining-car waiter during the summers to help pay his tuition. After graduation in 1923 he practiced dentistry in Seguin, Texas, for twelve years. There he participated in the founding of that city's first branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.^{qv} In 1937 Hall and his wife, Olivia Williams Hall, a teacher, moved to Corpus Christi, where Hall practiced dentistry for thirty-six years. At the time they arrived Corpus Christi's black population lived in an area bounded by Winnebago Street, Port Avenue, and the railroad tracks along West Broadway. Most of the homes in this area were substandard. Blacks were prohibited from living in other parts of the city through restrictive covenants and other discriminatory practices. Hall became active in the fight to achieve better housing conditions for blacks. In the mid-1950s he became the first black to build and own a home on Ocean Drive. At about the same time he encouraged many blacks to move across Port Avenue into the Hillcrest subdivision. These unpopular actions resulted in several threats on his life and his home. Later he worked with developers, realtors, and financiers to develop the Greenwood Park subdivision, which was established to provide moderate-income housing. Subsequent appeals to the city council for more such housing resulted in additions to the Leathers Public Housing Project. These residential developments were designed to give Corpus Christi's black population the opportunity to live in a new degree of dignity. Hall spearheaded several movements to end various forms of segregation at city institutions, including the post office department, the naval station, Del Mar College, Texas A&I (now A&M) University at Kingsville, the Corpus Christi Independent School District, and the local office of the Internal Revenue Service. Hall was a member of St. Matthew's Baptist Church and served as president of the Corpus Christi chapter and the state conference of the NAACP. Over the course of his career he received many awards, including the 1953 Zeta Phi Beta's Man of the Year, the 1969 Martin Luther King Humanitarian award, the San Antonio NAACP's 1973 award for meritorious service, an appreciation award from Meharry Medical and Dental College, and other citations from the American G.I. Forum^{qv} and the Human Relations Commission. Hall died of esophageal cancer on January 4, 1974. He had one son.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Corpus Christi *Caller*, December 6, 1974.

Lenora Rolla

HALL, JESSE LEIGH (1849-1911). Jesse Leigh Hall, Texas Ranger, rancher, and United States army officer, was born in Lexington, North Carolina, on October 9, 1849, the son of James King and Frances Mebane (Rankin) Hall. Artist Frederick Remington characterized him as "a gentleman of the romantic Southern soldier type, and he entertained the highest ideals, with which it would be extremely unsafe to trifle." Hall moved to Texas in 1869 and soon thereafter changed the spelling of his middle name to Lee. He started his Texas career as a schoolteacher but soon signed on as city marshal

in Sherman, deputy sheriff of Denison, and sergeant at arms of the Texas Senate. In August 1876 he received a commission as second lieutenant of Leander H. McNelly's^{qv} Special Force of Texas Rangers,^{qv} operating in the Nueces Strip, and was then posted at Goliad to solve a recent bank robbery. Although the robbers had fled to Mexico, Hall was successful in breaking up a band of vigilantes and earned the good will of the citizens of the community. As one wrote, "Lieutenant Hall had come an entire stranger, had taken in the situation at a glance and applied the remedy which caused the bold bad men to flee to parts unknown." In October 1876, due to McNelly's increasingly ill health and decreasing political popularity, Hall became acting commander of the company and moved it from the border to Cuero to suppress the Sutton-Taylor Feud.^{qv} His arrest of five ring-leaders of the Sutton faction allowed him to report: "The agony is over." The special force was reorganized at Victoria in January 1877, and Hall was promoted to first lieutenant and company commander. The company's sergeant, John B. Armstrong,^{qv} became the second lieutenant.

In February Hall broke the command into units of one and two men and scattered it along the border to suppress cattle rustling, cross-border raiding exacerbated by the Díaz revolution in Mexico, and the depredations of J. King Fisher^{qv} and his gang. Hall served as captain of the special company only until 1880 before turning over command to his first lieutenant, T. L. Oglesby. In March 1881 the company was merged with the Frontier Battalion^{qv} as Company F.

In 1880 Hall married Bessie Weidman, who hated the ranger service. The couple became the parents of five daughters. Most of Hall's subsequent business ventures were failures. From 1880 to 1885 he managed the Dull Ranch and was active in settling the fence cutting^{qv} troubles of that era. After serving as agent to the Anadarko Indians, he was indicted for embezzlement and for making false claims in 1888, but the suits were dismissed for lack of evidence. Until 1898 he was engaged in business in San Antonio, but with the outbreak of the Spanish-American War he raised two companies, the "Immunes," for service in the First United States Volunteer Infantry regiment. When the regiment was released from service, Hall reentered the army as a first lieutenant and saw action as a leader of the Macabebe Scouts in the Philippine Islands. He received a brevet promotion to captain for conspicuous gallant service at Aringay and Batangas and was discharged on October 6, 1900.

Hall died on March 17, 1911, and was buried in the National Cemetery at San Antonio.^{qv} According to nineteenth-century Texas Ranger historian Wilburn H. King,^{qv} Hall was "a man of daring and almost reckless physical courage, of fine physique and resistless energy." Although he was unsurpassed as a ranger and lawman, he was unable to enter the twentieth century gracefully. His life was probably abbreviated by strong drink.

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Thomas W. Cutrer

HALL, JOHN W. (ca. 1786-1845). John W. (Captain Jack) Hall, member of the Old Three Hundred^{qv} and judge, was born in South Carolina about 1786. His family moved to Louisiana soon after its purchase in 1803. Hall joined the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition^{qv} in 1812, as did his brother, Warren D. C. Hall.^{qv} He also took part in the battle of New Orleans in January 1815. In 1822 he returned to Texas and settled at the La Bahía Road^{qv} crossing of the Brazos River. He

received title to two leagues and two labors of land now in Brazoria and Waller counties on July 10, 1824, and established a ferry at the site of Washington-on-the-Brazos in 1825. The census of 1826 classified him as a farmer and stock raiser with a wife, Patsy (daughter of Andrew Robinson^{qv}), two young sons, four servants, and twenty slaves. In December 1830 the ayuntamiento^{qv} of San Felipe approved Hall's petition for an additional league of land. In March 1835 he joined with Asa Hoxey, Thomas Gray,^{qv} and others in founding the Washington Townsite Company, which promoted Washington-on-the-Brazos and rented the building in which the Texas Declaration of Independence^{qv} was written. Hall became county judge and sheriff of Washington County in July 1835 and in November of that year helped organize the local militia. In March 1836 he issued an address calling for volunteers; later during the revolution he furnished supplies for the army. He died on January 1, 1845. He was buried with Masonic rites and honors, and both houses of the Texas Congress adjourned as a mark of respect to his memory.

A John W. Hall immigrated to Texas in 1831 as a member of Stephen F. Austin's^{qv} second colony, took part in the battle of San Jacinto,^{qv} and lived in Brazoria County in 1837. He is probably the John W. Hall listed in DeWitt C. Baker's^{qv} *Texas Scrap-Book* as dying in 1839.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Eugene C. Barker, ed., *The Austin Papers* (3 vols., Washington: GPO, 1924–28). Eugene C. Barker, ed., "Minutes of the Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin, 1828–1832," 12 parts, *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 21–24 (January 1918–October 1920). Lester G. Bugbee, "The Old Three Hundred: A List of Settlers in Austin's First Colony," *Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association* 1 (October 1897). Louis Wiltz Kemp, *The Signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence* (Salado, Texas: Anson Jones, 1944; rpt. 1959). *Texas National Register*, January 4, 1845. William Barret Travis, *Diary*, ed. Robert E. Davis (Waco: Texian, 1966).

HALL, JOSIE BRIGGS (1869–1935). Josie Briggs Hall, black schoolteacher and writer, was born on September 17, 1869, in Waxahachie, Texas. Because her parents, Henry and Jennie Briggs, died before she reached her twelfth birthday, she lived with a sister during part of her childhood. She attended Bishop College but apparently did not graduate. However, at the age of sixteen, she secured her first teaching job at a school in Canaan, Texas, and subsequently taught at a number of other schools in such locations as Ray and Mexia, Texas, and Penton and Tunica, Mississippi. She married J. P. Hall, a schoolteacher and principal, in 1888; they had three sons and two daughters.

Josie Hall was influenced by Booker T. Washington, who stressed the importance of education and economic advancement for black people. She wrote essays and poems that she hoped would promote fortitude and perseverance. After the nearly completed manuscript of her first book disappeared during a fire in 1898, she wrote two other books. *A Scroll of Facts and Advice* (1905) was a book of poems published by Houx's Printery of Mexia. The poems taught religious faith, patience, and sobriety. Hall's *Moral and Mental Capsule for the Economic and Domestic Life of the Negro, As a Solution of the Race Problem* (1905), published by R. S. Jenkins, not only contained original poems and essays but also included essays by Washington and Leo Tolstoy and biographical sketches and photographs of leading blacks in Texas and the United States. Such poems as "Parents Must Leave a Legacy," "Intemperance," "Right is Might," and "All Worldly Things are Perishable" and essays entitled "Thoughts for Different Nations" and "A Woman of Probity" presented the author's moral views. The poem "Politics" expressed her opinion that blacks needed "a home, an education and clothes" more than public office; "Women's Rights," another poem, advised women to remain in their separate domestic spheres and refrain from agitating for suffrage. Hall stressed that a wife could exert an influence over her husband "by doing her duty at home" and that "her principal duty is that of housewifery." She her-

self taught school, however, and there is some evidence that she may have been divorced later.

Josie Hall was a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.^{qv} She attempted to found a junior college for blacks near Doyle in Limestone County, but the project apparently failed. During her later years she moved to Dallas, where she founded the Homemakers' Industrial and Trade School. According to city directories, she ran the school from February 1916 through the summer of 1928. She died in Dallas on October 25, 1935.

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Paul M. Lucko

HALL, RICHARD MOORE (1851–1917). Richard Moore Hall, lawyer, public servant, and rancher, was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, on November 17, 1851, the son of Dr. James King and Frances Mebane (Rankin) Hall and the brother of Jesse Leigh Hall.^{qv} After studying civil engineering at New Garden, North Carolina, he moved to Sherman, Texas, in 1872 and served as county surveyor of Grayson County from 1875 until 1877. He married Betty Hughes of Jefferson County in 1880 and soon thereafter moved to La Salle County, where he assisted two of his brothers in operating the Dull-Hall Ranch near Cotulla.

By 1884 Hall had sold out his share of the ranch and moved to Florence in Williamson County. He was elected commissioner of the General Land Office in 1887 and held that office until 1891. While serving as commissioner he appointed a family friend, William Sydney Porter,^{qv} as a clerk in the land office. Porter later achieved fame as the short story writer O. Henry, and one of his earliest stories, "Georgia's Ruling," drew a fictional portrait of Hall.

Hall opposed the "Sidings and Switches" issue raised against the railroads by Attorney General James S. Hogg.^{qv} Though Hall believed that the policy of granting public lands to the railroads was "short-sighted and unwise," he appears to have disagreed with Hogg's attempts to recover granted lands in the courts, and their policy disagreements turned to political rivalry in 1890. Hall was one of many candidates for the Democratic nomination for governor that year. He advocated a relatively weak Railroad Commission^{qv} and the increased use of proceeds from the sale of public lands to benefit education in West Texas counties. He had withdrawn from the race by the time the convention met in San Antonio in August, and he seems to have left public life after 1890.

That year he moved to Houston, where he was a lawyer and the president of a railway company, the Houston, Brazos and Western, in 1900. The railroad was projected but never built. Hall died in Houston on November 19, 1917, and was buried in Glenwood Cemetery. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son.

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Herbert H. Lang

HALL, ROBERT (1814–1899). Robert Hall, early settler, soldier, and Texas Ranger, was born in South Carolina in 1814 and was taken as a child to Tennessee, where his family built the first house in Memphis. He moved to Texas, probably as a member of the crew of the side-wheeler *George Washington*, in 1835 and apparently served with the *Yellow Stone*^{qv} during the Texas Revolution.^{qv} He enlisted in the Texas army on June 1, 1836, and remained with the forces until