

THE EARLIEST HALLS IN VIRGINIA
WHO MIGHT BE RELATED TO INSTANCE, ISAAC OR THE
BRODNAXES

(using notes from E. T. Hall (Jacksonville) and Ruby Hall Barwinski (Norfolk) as my basis)

Ruby spent many years researching the ancestors and descendants of Isaac Hall. A few years after she died in 2000, I received a box of her notes and research. Included was a reference to a will of Mary Thweatt, which mentioned Isaac Hall. This was the only bit of “new” information I could find that no one else had seemed to notice. Ruby had given me her notes from E. T. Hall about 10 years ago. He lived not far from me and when I went to meet him, he was too ill to talk. I believe he must have died. Here are some of his notes and observations, beginning with the earliest dates:

1. Surry County, VA. Additional Windows” Vol. 1. Early Virginia and Its People by Thelma W. Bastow.: P. 96-112: Settlers to Virginia and living on Feb. 16, 1623; HALL: George, Hugh, Jeffery, John, Christopher, Susan and Thomas. P. 117 a list of the dead from April 1622 through Feb. 16, 1623 at Elizabeth Cittie: HALL, Thomas.
2. Deed books: # 1 p. 89, William Hall and Thomas Jones a witness, Sept 2, 1656
p. 96, William Hall, a witness, Jan. 30, 1655
p. 129, William Hall, a witness, Oct. 3, 1655
p. 281, George G. Hall and William Batt, witnesses
Deed book #2 p. 322, Estate settlement of George Jordan, names William Hall and

Mr. William Hall.

Deed books #3,4,5 covering 1684-1709 had no Halls listed.

Deed book #6, 1709-1715: p. 122: “I, Capt, Henry Jenkins of Virginia, but at present residing in the island of Barbados do stand justly indebted and also firmly bound to Hugh Hall of Barbados, Merchant, owe 150 pounds, Dec. 1, 1710; and second obligation of 75

pounds. Signed in the presence of John Hall and Benjamin Hall, at a court held at Southwark for the county of Surry, Sept. 17, 1712."

p. 122: Power of Attorney from Hugh Hall of Barbados to Maj. Nathaniel Harrison, Esq. And Capt. Henry Harrison, Gent. Both of Virginia to collect all and every such sums of money and goods and chattels. Wit.: Benjamin Hall, Richard Brand, Thomas Hold at a court held at Southwark, Sept. 17, 1712.

Now, E. T. Hall theorized that "Our family came from Essex County, England and were merchants that owned ships. In the late 1600s and early 1700s they had offices in England, Barbados, and the colony of Virginia. About 1700, Hugh and Benjamin were in Barbados, other brothers Poole and John were in Isle of Wight and Nansemond living on the western branch of the Nansemond River. Isaac and Instant Hall lived right on the county lines of Surry and Prince George Counties. John Hall died in 1715, Poole, in 1721, Isaac, 1730, Instance in 1738. Hugh Hall says he is the oldest brother of Capt. John Hall who died in 1715. *There may have been another brother Thomas in Norfolk County.* A John Hall bound himself to Will Green in 1698 to learn the trade of shoemaker and tanner...witnessed by George Green." (E. T. was descended from Poole Hall. He went to Virginia and North Carolina to do his research. The notes I have are dated 1985.)

Finally, copies of letters sent to a Hall descendant by James W. Petty are now noted. Mr. Petty was a professional genealogist who worked on the Isaac Hall families from 1981-1989. In some of his notes regarding other Halls, he says that "Robert Hall was a prominent resident of Prince George County between 1715-1728. He was a gentleman and was married to Elizabeth Harrison, daughter of Thomas and Eleanor Harrison. He had three known children: John, Sarah and Thomas." No proof is given. Nor is there proof for his statement: " Capt. John Hall of Virginia, apparently not married, died prior to 1714. His executrix was his widowed mother, Prudence Hall, of Westham, Essex County, England who appointed an attorney in Virginia to handle the

property in Virginia. A brother, Hugh Hall of Barbados called himself the eldest brother of Capt. John Hall and Hugh also appointed an attorney to recover money owed to John Hall, stating that he was his brother's Heir-at-Large." Mr. Petty did extensive research on the Isaac Hall family and HE theorized that Isaac was a son of Instant, whose father was James. We will touch on this later.

As we investigate further into the various Halls, the name Hugh becomes more prominent. It will be associated with one of the John Halls who is covered in the article "Two Unrelated John Halls of Amelia County" by William B. Hall, M. A., MD that is already familiar to our family researchers. I have been unable to connect any of the Halls mentioned so far to Isaac, his brother Instant or to the Ann and Elizabeth Hall sisters who married into the Brodnax line. Nothing comes close to the Thomas who was hanged, or the Powers family.

Continuing, most of this is information gathered by me.

Mr. Petty strongly felt that my Isaac was a son of Instant and that Instant was a son of James. I passed this on to a number of Hall researchers. I NOW DISAGREE. The will of Mary Thweatt came to light in Ruby Barwinski's files. It is in the Prince George Wills and Deeds book of 1710-1713. It is dated Jan. 1712/13 and is attached. In it she mentions "James Hall, son of Isaac; and further... also Instance Hall". THIS IS ENLIGHTENING because it indicates that Isaac must have had a son named James from a marriage earlier than the one we have all known about, i. e. to Judith Green, (mother of the four sons mentioned in his will...Lewis, George, William and Isaac.)

I did a lot of research into the Thweatt family, hoping to prove that Mary was a sister to Isaac and Instant. This seems improbable, due to the dates of birth of her own children. (She names a lot of grandchildren!) Yet the executor of her will is John Spain, Jr. who also did the same for Isaac Hall's will. (WHO is he???) Some kind lady

even copied pages and pages of articles on the Thweatt (and Sturdivant) families from The Southside Virginian for me. I hoped that some of Mary's children's familiar names would lead me on. Unfortunately, Mary's husband was James Thweatt....which muddied the waters over who she named her son for: i. e. James Hall, (father of Isaac and Instant?) The writer of the articles on the Thweatt families indicated that the Archer families were connected to the Thweatts. I went looking for Archers. Amazingly, some of Instant's descendants do marry into the Archer family and the name Instant gets carried along in that line. (The Archer researcher I worked with did not know where her Halls came from!)

It seems that Instant Hall and his wife, Mary Willson, were a step above the Isaac Hall family, both socially, financially and politically. Instant was a pillar of the Bristol Parish church and his name was carried by almost every branch of a related family. It is changed to Instance occasionally, but even as Isaac's children moved on to North Carolina and Georgia the name Instance continues. My own great-great-grandfather in Appling County, Georgia was Instance Hall, son of Lewis, Jr, son of Lewis, Sr., son of Isaac. Amazing. Yet almost every inquiry I posted on various genealogy Internet sites on the name Instance brought forth the same misinformation....if any at all!!! I was amazed how little honest information there is on the original Instant Hall.

As for Isaac, my ancestor, he really left little to work with. I will be adding the Greens to his story since his (second?) wife is probably Judith Green, daughter of Lewis. I believe her parents to be Lewis Green and Susannah Grigg. There is some relationship to the Burwell line, but that has been hard to prove. (So far.)

In working on the John Hall/Anne Bolling line, I tried and tried to connect some of their relatives to the Instant Halls or even to the first 6-7 "brothers" discussed earlier. Hugh keeps popping up. A Hugh was

a brother to this John. The name Hugh gets carried on even to Alabama. I went to the UF library in late 2005 to do research in their department covering the Caribbean, specifically looking for information on Barbados and the Hugh Hall known to be living there. I found a wonderful book about him, unread by anyone for the past 30 years. But nothing in it gave any indication that he was connected to the Virginia Halls. And the only connection I can find to the Brodnaxes is the fact that Stephen Edward Brodnax's wife Elizabeth Hall married for the second time to Edward Munford And the Munfords seem to work into the Bolling line.

For now, I am at a dead end.

Shirley Hall Bowers (Mrs. J. Alfred Bowers)

206 Pablo Road

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

February, 2005 and "resurrected" in September, 2011