

THE FIRST HALLS IN VIRGINIA

In 1584, Queen Elizabeth I gave the English adventurer, Sir Walter Raleigh, permission to establish colonies in America. One of the most intriguing was THE LOST COLONY. They were the third group of Englishmen who tried to make a permanent settlement in this country and this group settled on Roanoke Island on the coast of North Carolina. The first few expeditions failed because the settlers did not have enough supplies, but this last group was supposed to have brought enough to be self sufficient until they could raise their own crops. They landed in 1587, but the next supply ship from England was delayed until 1580. Upon its arrival, the only sign found of the original 117 settlers was the word "croatoan" carved on a tree. The Croatans were the Indians who lived in the area. The mystery of the Lost Colony has never been solved.

In 1606, the new king, James I, chartered the Virginia Company of London and in May 1607, a new group of colonists established the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown. They came on the ships Susan Constant, Goodspeed and Discovery. During the next winter, many colonists starved and the rest were ready to give up and return to England. During this time, John Smith made his famous trip up river to meet with Powhatan and the Indian princess, Pocahontas is reported to have saved his life. But springtime brought the arrival of a new fleet bringing supplies and new colonists...and by 1612, these settlers were established enough to begin to raise crops for export...namely tobacco. The famous John Rolfe, who began the tobacco venture, married Pocahontas about 1614. She was the daughter of Powhatan, chief of the Indian confederacy surrounding Jamestown. The descendants of Pocahontas have a direct relationship to our Hall and Brodnax ancestors.

By 1619, the colonists had been granted land of their own to settle and farm and in February 1623 there were Halls living in the colony. We know this because they are recorded in Additional Windows, Early Virginia and Its People Vol. I by Thelma W. Bastow. Perhaps they had been there from the very beginning, but their NAMES were written down in 1623. They were George, Hugh, Jeffery, John, Christopher, Susan and Thomas. They had come from Essex County, England. Deeds in Surry County beginning about 1652 show several records for William Hall and George Hall. We do not know who they are. In 1642, Sir William Berkeley arrived in Virginia to serve as governor. There were 8,000 people living in the colony; 35 years later there were 40,000. Well before 1700, the Hall family was well

established in Virginia as merchants and ship owners, with offices in England and Barbados according to Hall family researchers. Six Hall men, probably brothers, included Hugh and Benjamin Hall who lived on the island of Barbados which is just off the coast of Venezuela. Barbados was a strong British colony. Hugh Hall declared himself to be the brother of Cap't. John Hall who died in 1715. In Virginia (Isle of Wight County on the west branch of the Nansemond River) lived Poole, who died in 1721 and John Hall, assumed to be the Cap't. Hall aforementioned. Also on the south side of the James River, in Surry and Prince George counties, lived Isaac and Instance Hall. We descend from Isaac, who is 8 generations back from Shirley Hall Bowers. Our "unusual" family name, which was passed down for several generations, obviously comes from Instance, who we feel sure was Isaac's brother. Instance was a member of the vestry of the Bristol Parish church, as was Lewis Green. Both seem to have been leaders and prominent men in a rather small area of land (20 miles along the James River) which holds so much of our nation's history. Isaac's land adjoined the land of Lewis Green and we believe Isaac married his daughter, Judith Green. A copy of Isaac's will, written on December 2, 1728, is wonderful reading!! The portion of the plantation, which he leaves to his son Lewis Hall, is later sold by Lewis, who, with his mother and perhaps a brother or two, has moved to North Carolina. Obviously, Lewis Hall is named for his grandfather, Lewis Green.

Another prominent name in Virginia is Thomas Hall, who was hanged for participating in Bacon's Rebellion, the first organized group of colonists who were beginning to think that England was exerting too much control over the lives of the Virginians. One of their chief complaints was regulation of the shipping industry. This, of course, hit the Hall family right in the "pocketbook". Although we do not have absolute proof, we feel that Thomas could have been related to our family thus: Our BRODNAX LINE shows that Edward and William Brodnax (our early ancestors) married Hall sisters. So many people researching this line have speculated that Ann and Elizabeth Hall were daughters of a Thomas Hall who was the son of the Thomas who was hanged. One particular reference (and there are many!!) shows that in 1738, Edward Brodnax of Charles City Co, Gent. got land and the transaction was witnessed by William, his brother and John and Thomas Hall....supposedly husbands of the two Brodnax wives. Another reference says that "Thomas Hall, who married Mollie Power on September 30, 1737, was the grandchild of the hanged Thomas (hanged in 1676 by Gov. Berkeley

as a supporter of the Bacon rebellion.) However this marriage date does not work for our Hall purposes!

Another mention is made of the Hall family's connection to families named Eppes and Bolling. Since we know that Lewis Green, Isaac's adjoining neighbor, had daughters Mary (who married Edward Eppes) as well as our own Judith, this seems to be more than a coincidence. Bolling or Bolen turns up all through the Hall family in following generations. The Bollings were very important people in the Bristol Parish Church and Col. Robert Bolling, a contemporary of our Instant and Isaac, was married first to the granddaughter of Pocahontas. Let's review this. John Rolfe, originally from England, married Pocahontas in 1614. She was born in 1595. They had one son, Thomas, born in 1615 in England, where Pocahontas died. Thomas Rolfe soon came over to Virginia where he married Jane Poythress and had one daughter, Jane, born between 1640-60. Jane Rolfe, granddaughter of Pocahontas, married Col. Robert Bolling (born 1646) A son, John Bolling, was born, Jane died and Col. Bolling then married Ann Stith. Robert Bolling, Jr. was born of this marriage; he married Anne Cocke. Their daughter, Elizabeth Bolling, married James Munford and this couple's son, Robert married Ann Brodnax.

Coincidence: in James City in 1632, a Francis Poythress petitioned for administration on the estate of Thomas Hall & Roger Kidd, dec'd. It is unknown whether this particular Thomas Hall was related to our group, but it indicates what a small circle of people we are dealing with overall... Poythresses, Halls, Bollings, Rolfes, Brodnaxes... and most of them lived in a very small area called Bristol Parish!! Another one of our Brodnax grandfathers married into the Hall family (which Hall family is the big question!) and another segment of the Halls produced a line which migrated into Alabama and married into the SEGREST family.