

Bay Area Genealogical Society Quarterly

Volume 8, Number 2
March 2009



Texas Historical Commission Marker for
Warren D. C. Hall

Harris County and Galveston County
Texas



BAY AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

The Quarterly is a publication of the Bay Area Genealogical Society, a non-profit educational organization founded in 2001 for family history researchers in Harris and Galveston Counties, Texas. This publication is devoted to the preservation and recording of historic places and events in our area. We solicit articles from members and non-members and welcome items such as local Bible, military and cemetery records as well as articles of general interest in the field of genealogy. Members are encouraged to submit articles involving their ancestral history from all geographic areas. Each quarterly will feature the five-generation pedigree chart of a member and a section for queries. The Quarterly is indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) which alerts researchers worldwide to our articles.

Editorial Policy: The editor reserves the right to accept or reject submissions and to edit submitted material with regard to content and length. All contributions are expected to be factually accurate with adequate source documentation. The Bay Area Genealogical Society and the Quarterly staff assume no responsibility for errors of fact or opinion on the part of contributors. Corrections will be printed as they are brought to our attention. Every effort will be made to observe copyright rules and laws. Correspondence concerning an article should be addressed directly to the author who retains copyright to his or her work. Permission to reprint a signed article should be obtained from the author and the Society, and the Quarterly should be acknowledged in the reprint.

Submissions for Publication: The Quarterly is published in December, March, June and September of each year and is given to all society members. Deadlines for each issue are on the 15th of those months of publication. Please submit material electronically to Melodey M. Hauch at rmhauch@comcast.net or by mail to 306 Watercrest Harbor Lane, League City, Texas 77573. Include your name, address, e-mail and a telephone number when submitting an article. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope for any material to be returned. Back issues of the Quarterly may be purchased for \$5.00 each or \$15.00 for the four issues from any one year.

Society Membership is open to anyone interested in genealogy. A membership form is provided in this Quarterly for your convenience. Annual dues become payable at the September general meeting of the Society. Payment of annual dues entitles members to receive the Society's quarterly publication and monthly newsletters. If you are unable to pick up the Quarterly at monthly meetings, add \$5.00 to yearly dues to have all four issues mailed to you at the end of the year.

Dues are: Individual - \$20
 Family - \$25
 Contributor - \$40 - \$59
 Patron - \$60 - \$599
 Lifetime - \$600 or higher

Society Meetings are held the last Friday of each month at the University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, Texas in the Clear Lake City area. Members meet at 6:30 for coffee, and the business meeting begins at 7:00 p. m. Programs feature a variety of speakers who share genealogy tools to aid in our research.

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Cover photo by Floyd L. Martin: Texas Historical Marker #7483 in Galveston's Episcopal Cemetery for Warren D. C. Hall (1788 - April 8, 1867). Discrepancies between his birth years on this marker and his tombstone led Rose Mary Fritz to research Hall's life. Her article appears on page 45. Mrs. Fritz never found verification that Hall's middle names were DeWitt Clinton, as stated on the historical marker.

Message from the President *****



With the dawning of spring, BAGS is moving toward completion of the Mt. Olivet Cemetery transcription project. There are just a few areas of the over 6,000-grave site that need to be inventoried. I am hopeful that our members will continue to eagerly move forward. Contact Alice Braud-Jones to join an inventorying team. This is very pleasant work...the cemetery is so pretty and it is quite relaxing to walk among the stones and trees. We surely want to have all the outdoor work completed before that hellacious humidity hits Houston!

Don't forget to sign up to ride the BAGS bus to Clayton Library. This is a very popular activity among our members. The bus service is provided by Harris County and we are happy to make the arrangements for the society to avail itself of this wonderful freebie! The next trips are scheduled for: May 20, June 3, July 8, August 19, and September 29. Contact County Coordinator, Mary Martin, to reserve a seat.

Resa N. Hennings

From the Editor *****



Welcome to our newest BAGS members: Tony and Myrna Alvarez, Terry Smith Bowers, Cathy Todd, Ronnie Samms, Patsy Chappellear, Eileen Darbonne and Terry Stone. I encourage you to send in articles about your ancestral search, wherever in the world those ancestors lived. Reading these family research projects can provide clues to fellow genealogists in their own searches.

For our second BAGS Quarterly Obit, James Powell Sherwood's obituary is included on pages 52 and 53, with photos of his family's monument in Galveston's Old City Cemetery on page 54. James P. Sherwood (1811-1894) was another Texas pioneer, arriving in Galveston in 1837. His long obituary details the other pioneers he knew and gives a number of "firsts" he accomplished, including building the first frame house on the island, serving as the first quarantine officer and building the first railroad turntable on Galveston Island. Six years following his death, a number of his family members died during the 1900 Storm.

This issue of the Quarterly begins with the remnants of Robert V. Phillips Sr.'s old family Bible, including images of the surviving pages. The Bible provides names and dates for his Ricketson and Williams families of North Carolina and Georgia. BAGS member, Rose Mary Fritz, contributed a detailed article on Texas pioneer, Warren D. C. Hall and his family. Her article is a great example of how a routine cemetery outing can lead to an extensive research project. Rose Mary noticed a discrepancy between the dates on Hall's tombstone and historical marker and decided to find the correct information.

We are publishing the second section of the Mount Olivet Cemetery transcriptions with the exterior spaces on the mausoleum, beginning on page 56. The June BAGS issue will conclude the mausoleum complex list. Our team will be returning to the grounds soon to update some sections and begin on others.

Melodey M. Hauch

Ricketson/Williams Family Bible

Robert V. Phillips, Sr.

The following was transcribed from a family Bible in possession of Sumpter Harris Williams at her death in 1982. The Bible had been stored in a chest in an outdoor building since around 1950. The building collapsed, exposing its contents to the weather for many years. When found, the Bible was in extremely poor condition, and several entries in the family records section are illegible or missing. The front cover, first hundred or so pages, last fifty or so pages, and back cover were missing. When the records were cut out of the Bible, their original order was lost. Since the title page and copyright date are missing, there is no way of telling exactly how old the Bible is. Dates range between 1760 and 1873. This transcription was done in April 1995 by Robert V. Phillips, Sr. of League City, Texas.

The Bible contains birth, marriage and death information on Benjamin Ricketson (1760-1843), his wife Huldah Lathrop (1770-1814) of Warren County, Georgia and their descendents including, related Williams, Perry, Dye, Lathrop and Skinner family members. Benjamin was the son of Gordius and Hannah Ricketson of Craven County, North Carolina. Entries followed by (?) represent the best interpretation of the original, but the transcriber is unsure of the exact entry. Entries represented by a blank space [____] were missing due to the faded or torn pages. In some cases, small sections of the page are missing so that a portion of a word is lost. When it is obvious what the word should be, [brackets] were placed around the missing letters or numbers. Numbers were written at the end of many of the entries, and these appear to be a simple numbering of the entries and is not included. Black lines separate the individual pages. The Bible record is followed by a family history compiled by Robert V. Phillips, Sr. The descendants whose families are included in the Bible are in bold print, and an * has been placed before the names of the family members mentioned in the Bible.

Marriages [printed on page]

Benjamin Ricketson the son of Gordius Ricketson, was married to Huldah Lathrop, the daughter of George Lathrop, on Thursday, the 25th day of November 1784

Deaths [handwritten]

Micajah Perry Departed this life March 12, 1857 about sun set [sic] aged 83 years 2 months and 11 days

John Skinner Senior Departed this life, March the 14th 1857, about nine o'clock in the morning aged 70 years 10 months and 14 days

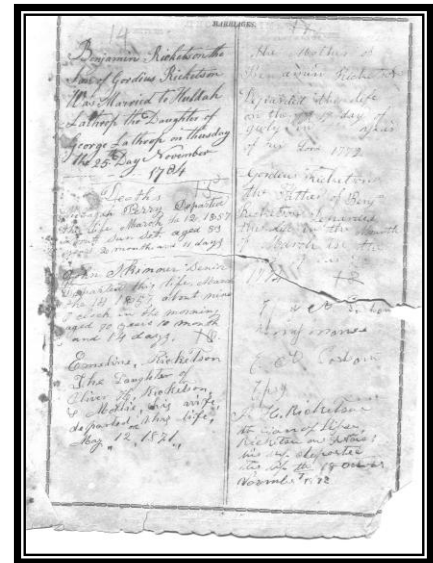
Emeline Ricketson, the daughter of Oliver H. Ricketson and Mollie his wife, departed this life May 12, 1871

Hannah Ricketson, the mother of Benjamin Ricketson, Departed this life on the 17th day of July in the year of our Lord 1772

Gordius Ricketson, the Father of Benj. ⁿ Ricketson, Departed this life in the month [sic] of March in the year of our Lord 1774

E[]y A [?] P[]ham is my name E A Posham [?] Epsy

J. H. Ricketson the son of Jesse Ricketson and Frances his wife, departed this life November 7, 1872 [18 October written and then marked through]



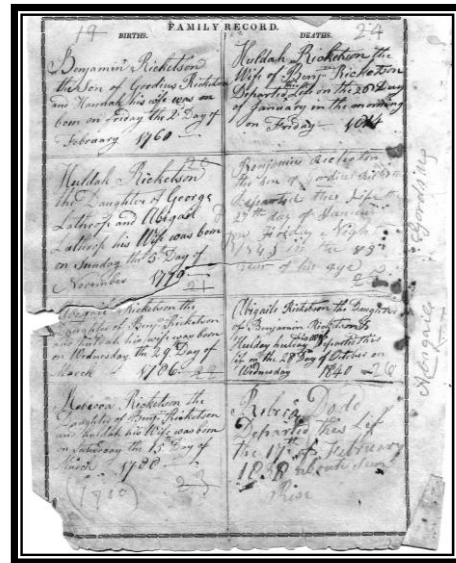
Family Record [printed]
Births [printed]

Benjamin Ricketson the son of Gordius Ricketson and Hannah his wife was born on Friday the 2nd Day of February 1760

Huldah Ricketson the Daughter of George Lathrop and Abigail Lathrop his Wife was born on Sunday the 5th Day of November 1770

Abigail Ricketson the Daughter of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson and Huldah his wife was born on Wednesday the 29th Day of March 1786

Rebecca Ricketson the Daughter of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson and Huldah his wife was born on Saturday the 15th Day of March 1788



Deaths [printed]

Huldah Ricketson the Wife of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson Departed this life on the 20th Day of January in the morning on Friday ____ 1814

Benjamin Ricketson the son of Gordius Ricketson Departed this Life the 27th day of January on Friday night 1843 in the 83rd year of his age

Abigail Ricketson the Daughter of Benjamin Ricketson and Huldah [sic] Lathrop his wife Departed this lif [sic] on the 28th Day of October on Wednesday 1840

Rebecca Dodo(?) Departed this lif [sic] the 17th of February 1838 aboute [sic] sun Rise [sic]

Marriages. [printed]

Jesse Ricketson the son of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson was married to his Wife Frances on the 25th March 1830

John Skinner Senior married Huldah Ricketson the 23 of September 1841

William A. Williams married Huldah Ann Ricketson the 2nd of February 1860 [year written twice]

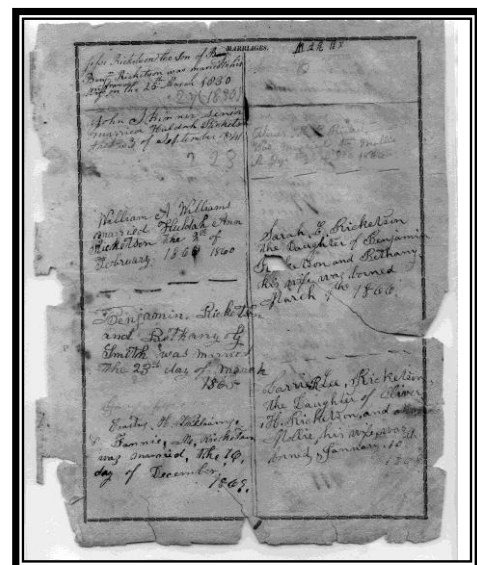
Benjamin Ricketson and Bethany G. Smith was married the 23rd day of March 1865

Erastus H. Williams & Fannie M. Ricketson was married the 16 day of December 1869

Oliver H. Ricketson was married to Mollie A. Dye the 20 of Dec 1866

Sarah E. Ricketson the Daughter of Benjamin R[ic]ketson and Bethany his wife was borned March 4th 1866

Carrie R. Lee Ricketson the Daughter of Oliver H. Ricketson and Mollie, his wife, was borned January 10th 1868



Family Record. [printed]
Births [printed]

Arthur Ricketson the son of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson and huldah his wife was born on Monday the 8th Day of November 1790

Gordius Ricketson the son of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson and huldah his Wife was born on Friday, the 26th day of October 1792

Bathsheba Ricketson the Daughter of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson and huldah his Wife Was born on Wed[nesd]ay the 11th Day of March 1795

Benjamin Ricketson the Son of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson and huldah his Wife was born on Thursday the 27th Day of April 1797

Hannah Harris Ricketson the Daughter of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson and huldah his Wife was born on Saturday the 25th day of May 1799

Deaths. [printed]

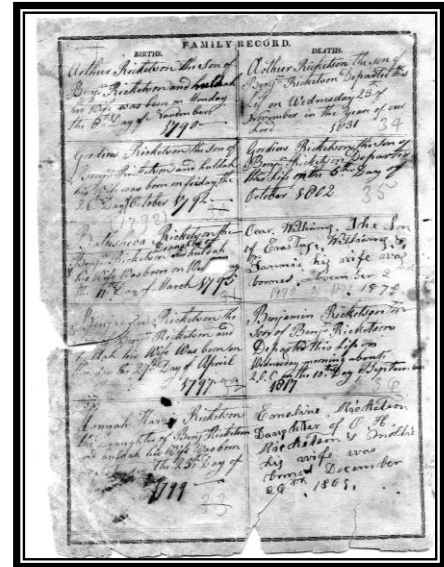
Arthur Ricketson the son of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson Departed this Lif [sic] on Wednesday 23th [sic] of November in the year of our Lord ___1831

Gordius Ricketson the son of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson Departed this Life on the 5th Day of October 1802

Ocar [sic] Williams, The Son of Erastus Williams & Fannie his wife was borned November 2nd, 1870

Benjamin Ricketson the Son of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson Departed this Life on Wednesday morning about 2 O.C. on the 10th Day of September 1817

Emeline Ricketson Daughter of O. H. Ricketson & Mollie his wife was borned December 26th, 1869



[Hu]ldah Ricketson, [d]aughter of Benj.ⁿ Rick[etson] and Huldah his wife was born on Tuesday the 2nd Day of June 1801

Jesse L. Ricketson the son of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson and huldah his Wife was born Monday the 4th day of June 1804

[T]imothy Ricketson the son of [B]enj.ⁿ Ricketson and huldah [hi]s Wife Was born on Saturday the 8th day of November 1806

[Geo]rge Lathrop Ricketson the [son] of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson and [Huldah] his wife was born on [___]ay night the 21th Day of ___1809

[Shadr]ach Wilbern Ricketson [the son] of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson and [Huldah] his Wife Was born on the ___Morning the 13th day of ___ 1812

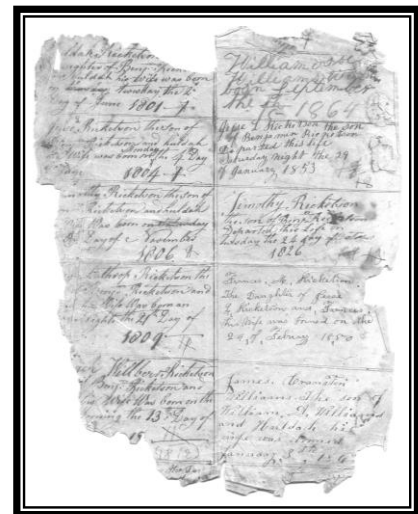
Williams ? ___ Williams was born September 15th 1864

Jesse L. Ricketson the son of Benjamin Ricketson Departed this life Saturday night the 29 of January 1853

Timothy Ricketson the son of Benj.ⁿ Ricketson Departed this Life on Tuesday the 24 day of October 1826

Frances M. Ricketson The Daughter of Jesse L. Ricketson and Frances his wife was borned on the 24 of February 1850. [Other sources have 14 February.]

James Cranston Williams, The son of William A. Williams and Huldah his wife was borned January 3th, 186[] torn page



Frances Perry the Daughter of Micajah Perry and Mary his Wife was born on the 17 1811

Emmeline Ricketson the Daughter of Jesse Ricketson & Francis his wife was born on the 26th day of February 1831

Timothy Lathrop Ricketson the son of Jessie L. Ricketson & Frances his wife Was born on the 25th day of January 1833

Benjamin Ricketson the Son of Jesse L. Ricketson & Frances his Wife was Born on the 18th of March 1835

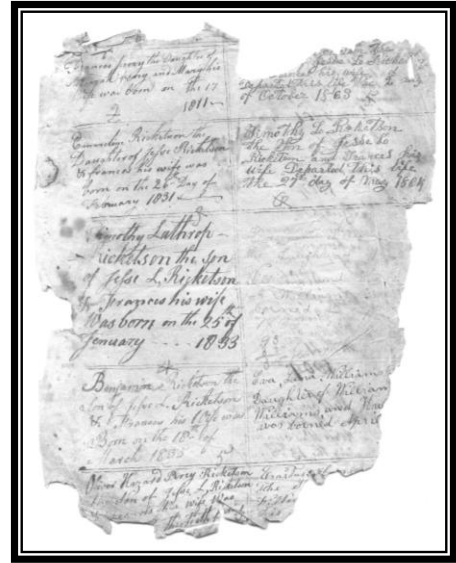
Oliver Hazard Perry Ricketson the Son of Jesse L. Ricketson & Frances his wife [] thirtieth [18]37

[]son the [] o]f Jesse L. Ricket[so]n [and F]rances his wife Departed this life the 2nd day of October 1863

Timothy L. Ricketson the Son of Jesse L. Ricketson and Frances his wife departed this life the 27th day of May 1864

Eva Lena Williams the Daughter of William Williams and Huldah A. Williams was borned [April] 1866 [Written twice, first entry faded out]

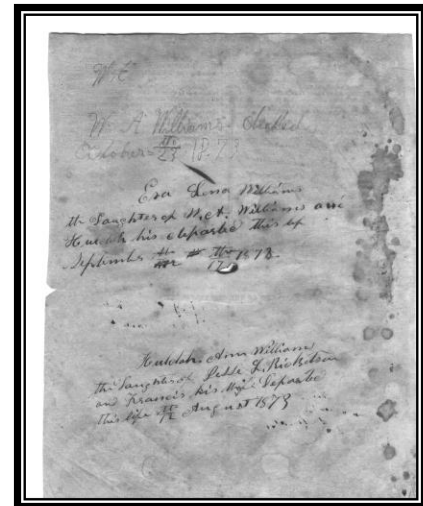
Erastus H. [] the S[] Willia[] his [] [page torn]



W. A. Williams died October 23, 1873

Eva Lena Williams the Daughter of W. A. Williams and Huldah his[sic] departed this life September 17th, 1873 [written 1873 with 1872 written over that date]

Huldah Ann Williams the Daughter of Jesse L. Ricketson and Francis [sic] his wife Departed this life 12th August 1873



Family History of Gordius and Hannah Ricketson of Craven County, North Carolina

Names with an * were mentioned in the Ricketson/Williams Bible.

*Gordius Ricketson was born on September 1, 1735 in Dartmouth, Bristol County, Massachusetts, to Timothy Ricketson and Bathsheba Wilbour. He died on March 19, 1774 in Craven Count, North Carolina. Gordius Ricketson married (1) *Hannah Russell(?) who died on July 17, 1772. He married (2) Abigail (last name unknown) after July 1772.

Gordius Ricketson settled in Craven County, North Carolina, where he became a planter. He was involved in several legal items in 1772, two years before his death. Dr. Shadrach Ricketson, in his genealogy of the Ricketsons, affirms that Gordius Ricketson "died in the Revolutionary War to the South." As there were no hostile movements in the South before 1774, the year of his death, we think he may have been killed while visiting his brother, Abednego, in Nova Scotia. The tradition handed down by Jordan Ricketson to his daughter was that Gordius and also his brother, Marmaduke, were killed by the Indian hirelings employed by the British against the Continental troops. He said that one brother was killed in battle, the other by a band who broke into his house and murdered him in his bed at night.¹

Gordius first married Hannah, whose last name is unknown, but was possibly Russell. Their marriage was probably about 1755. Hannah died in 1772, and Gordius married Abigail, whose last name is unknown. Abigail survived him. Gordius Ricketson made his will on November 25, 1773, and it was proved March 19, 1774. He mentions therein his son, Benjamin, his eldest son, Jesse, his daughter, Bathsheba, his son, Gordius Jr. and his wife, Abigail Ricketson.

The children of Gordius Ricketson and his wife Hannah were:

Jesse Ricketson, born September 6, 1758, Craven Co., NC; died February 3, 1835.

***Benjamin Ricketson**, born February 2, 1760; died January 27, 1843, family listed below.

Gordius Ricketson.

Bathsheba Ricketson.

Benjamin Ricketson, son of Gordius and Hannah Ricketson

***Benjamin Ricketson** was born February 2, 1760, and died January 27, 1843. He married ***Huldah Lathrop** on November 25, 1784. She was the daughter of *George and *Abigail Lathrop, born November 5, 1770, and died January 20, 1814. Benjamin married his first cousin, once removed; Huldah Lathrop was the daughter of his grandfather's sister. Some sources say that Huldah was Benjamin's grandfather's granddaughter, making her Benjamin's first cousin.

In 1833, Benjamin Ricketson, aged about 74 years, swore in Warren County, Georgia that he was a brother of Jesse Ricketson, and that he enlisted and served with his brother under Capt. Frederick Hargett and Col. Richard Caswell in the battle of Moores Creek Bridge.² This battle was fought February 27, 1776, between the North Carolina patriots and a force primarily composed of Scottish Highlanders and British loyalists. Note that the battle was fought before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a few months later. The loyalists shouted, "King George and Broadwords!" as they charged across the bridge, expecting to find only a few poorly armed, disorganized farmers. Instead, they were met with a hail of bullets that killed their commanders and dozens of their men. They retreated in defeat. The significance of the battle is that it helped lead North Carolina to be the first state to declare independence and helped keep British influence on the state at a low level during the war that followed.³

The children of Benjamin Ricketson and Huldah Lathrop were:

*Abigail Ricketson, born March 29, 1786; died October 28, 1840.

*Rebecca Ricketson, born March 15, 1788; died February 17, 1838.

*Arthur Ricketson, born November 8, 1790; died November 23, 1831.

*Gordius Ricketson, born October 26, 1792; died October 5, 1802.

*Bathsheba Ricketson, born March 11, 1795.

*Benjamin Ricketson II, born April 29, 1797, married *Bethany G. Smith 1865; died September 10, 1817.

Children: *Sarah E. Ricketson, born March 4, 1866.

*Hannah Harris Ricketson, born May 25, 1799.

*Huldah Ricketson, born June 2, 1801, married *John Skinner Sr.

- ***Jessie Lathrop Ricketson**, born 1804; died January 29, 1853, family listed below.
- *George Lathrop Ricketson, born June 21, 1809.
- *Shadrach Wilbern Ricketson, born 1812.

Jesse Lathrop Ricketson, son of Benjamin Ricketson and Huldah Lathrop

*Jesse Lathrop Ricketson was born in 1804 and died on January 29, 1853. He married *Frances Perry on March 25, 1830 in Upson County, Georgia. The family Bible indicates that Frances Perry, born in 1811, was the daughter of *Micajah Perry and *Mary Elizabeth Banks. Micajah was born in 1772 in North Carolina and died in 1860 in Warren County, Georgia. Mary Elizabeth Perry was born in 1784 in North Carolina and died in 1877 in Warren County. The Bible lists Micajah's death as occurring on March 12, 1857, at the age of 83.

The children of Jesse L. Ricketson and Frances Perry are listed below. Most birth dates were found in the remnants of the family Bible.

- *Emmeline Ricketson, born February 26, 1831.
- *Timothy Lathrop Ricketson, born January 25, 1833; died May 27, 1864.
- *Benjamin Ricketson, born March 18, 1835.
- *Oliver Hazard Perry Ricketson, born 1837 married *Mollie Dye on December 20, 1866.
 - Children: *Emeline, born December 26, 1869; died May 12, 1871.
 - *Carrie R. Lee Ricketson, born January 10, 1868
- *Huldah Ann Ricketson, born around 1842; died August 12, 1873, married *W. A. Williams on February 2, 1860; he died on October 23, 1873.
 - Children: *Eva Lena Williams, born April 3, 1866; died September 17, 1873
 - *James Cranston Williams, born January 3, 1868
- *John H. [Bible has J. H.] Ricketson, born around 1847; died November 7, 1872
- ***Frances M. Ricketson**, born February 24, 1850, Warren Co., GA; died July 21, 1912, Wrightsboro, GA; married *Erastus H. Williams, December 16, 1869; born February 16, 1847; died April 23, 1919.
 - Children: *Oscar Lee Williams, born November 2, 1870; died April 31, 1923.⁴
 - Henry Oles Williams, born April 4, 1885; died September 25, 1971.⁵

The owner of the Ricketson/Williams Bible in 1982, Sumpter Harris Williams (1892-1982), was the widow of Henry Oles Williams (1885-1971), son of Erastus H. Williams and Frances M. Ricketson, mentioned in the family immediately above. Sumpter and Henry Williams were buried in the Thomson City Cemetery in Thomson, McDuffie County, Georgia. Erastus and Frances Williams were buried in the old Wrightsboro Methodist Church Cemetery, also in McDuffie County. Wrightsboro was settled by Quakers and was originally named Wrightsborough. It eventually became one of the "Dead Towns of Georgia," with only the historic church and cemetery remaining.

¹ Grace Williamson Edes, *William Ricketson and His Descendants*, 3 volumes, privately printed, 1932. Excerpts provided by Claudette Hines Bailey of Richardson, TX. Volume and page number unknown.

² Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of the Patriots of Moores Creek Bridge* (Blacksburg, SC: Scotia-Hibernia, 1992).

³ National Park Service, Moore's Creek Bridge website: <http://www.nps.gov/mocr> :accessed January 2009.

⁴ Oscar Lee Williams, Georgia Death Certificate no. 26857, McDuffie County, Georgia (1923). Bible has "Ocar."

⁵ Henry O. Williams birth and death dates from *Georgia Deaths, 1919-1998* and *Social Security Death Index*, databases online, Ancestry.com @<http://www.ancestry.com>.

The Warren D. C. Hall Family of Texas

Rose Mary McDaniel Fritz, Ph. D.

Warren D. C. Hall was a notable Texas pioneer who participated in filibusters against the Spanish government of Mexico as early as 1812. When Mexico gained its independence, he became a Mexican citizen and Austin Colonist. He was active in the political and military struggles for Texas independence from Mexico and became a large land holder and plantation owner.

Numerous biographical sketches have been written about Warren D. C. Hall.¹ Most of these sketches give his birth date as 1788 and his place of birth as Guilford County, North Carolina. A visit to his grave site in Galveston's Episcopal Cemetery, however, raised questions about the accuracy of this often-repeated but undocumented vital information.

Hall's grave is marked with a traditional headstone and a Texas Historical Commission Marker. The headstone, shown here, has a Masonic emblem and gives his age as 73 at the time of his death on 10 April 1867. The marker repeats the information in earlier biographical sketches, giving his birth year as 1788. This observation



of a significant discrepancy led to an investigation of other sources of vital information in an attempt to resolve the disagreement.

An obvious first step was a search of available census records. Three censuses were found which gave useful information. The 1830 list of Austin's Colonists in Texas enumerated Warren D. C. Hall, age 34 [born ca.1796], and his wife Julietta, age 29.² The 1850 census of Brazoria

County, Texas, enumerated Warren D. C. Hall, age 55, born South Carolina [born ca.1795] and his wife Julietta, age 50, born NY.³ The 1860 census for Galveston County, Texas, enumerated Warren D. C. Hall, age 65, born South Carolina [born ca.1795] with Julietta age 60, born NY.⁴

All three census records provide an estimate of his birth year of about 1795. In addition to these censuses, his application for bounty land, earned by his service in the War of 1812, supports the 1795 birth year. In a sworn statement on 27 March 1856, he stated his age was 61 years.⁵ From this statement, his birth year is calculated to be 1795. His interment record at Trinity Episcopal Church in Galveston, in agreement with his tombstone, gives his age as 73 when he died on 10 April 1867.⁶

Thus six independent sources tell us that he was born about 1795, not 1788. Two independent sources tell us that he was born in South Carolina not North Carolina as given in the biographical sketches and on the historical marker. In addition, the information given in the various biographical sketches could not be verified by an earlier researcher.⁷ No documentation was found to support the 1788 birth year. Correction of the vital facts of Warren's birth opens the way for further research on the family of Warren D. C. Hall.

To take up the search for Hall's parents, we look to Rapides Parish, Louisiana, which was the home of the Hall family before coming to Texas.⁸ Research in Rapides Parish was hampered by a lack of parish records before 1864 due to their destruction in the Civil War. A valuable clue was found, however, in neighboring St. Landry Parish, whose Catholic Church records were published by Rev. D. J. Hebert. In these records was found a record of the baptism of William Sims Hall, age 23, of South Carolina, son of Warren Hall and Marie Sims of Virginia. This baptism occurred on 9

October 1816. Also, we find William Sims Hall of Union County, South Carolina, in Rapides for seven years, son of Warren Hall and Mary Sims Hall of Virginia, married Susanne Stouds [Stutes] on 10 October 1816.⁹

The 1810 census of Rapides Parish, Territory of Orleans, Louisiana confirms that Warren Hall and family, consisting of five younger males, were living there at that time.¹⁰ Judging from the age of the head of household, 45 or greater, it is evident that this is not Warren D. C. Hall but, perhaps, his father.

Warren Hall is not listed in the 1820 census of Rapides. In this census, Mary Hall is listed as the head of household, residing on Bayou Robert in Rapides Parish.¹¹ Apparently her husband died sometime between these censuses. Indeed, on 20 June 1825 Stephen F. Austin wrote to Mrs. Hall concerning settling of a land transaction involving exchange of land on Bayou Robert. He suggested that a meeting be set up including “the heirs.”¹² In 1820 her household consisted of 2 young males, one young female and a female of age 45 or greater. Several other Hall families were enumerated in 1820 Rapides, including Charles Hall and William Hall who were enumerated next to Mary Hall. T. Hall and Samuel Hall were also in the parish. By 1830, the Halls had left Rapides and “gone to Texas.” Warren D. C. was in Austin’s Colony, Texas, as were some, if not all, of the rest of the family.

So, this Hall family, recently arrived in Rapides, was from South Carolina. Could this be Warren D. C. Hall’s family? The answer to that question was found in Brazoria County, Texas. Mary Hall’s Probate record in Brazoria County named five of her sons, including Warren D. C. Hall and William S. Hall, decd., as well as three other sons and a number of the grandchildren. The entry was addressed to the Hon. S. W. Perkins, Chief Justice of Brazoria County and reads as follows:

“Samuel A. Towsey, Adm. of the estate of Mary Hall, decd., respectfully represents that said estate is indebted for costs of administration, for taxes and for fees of locating said land

amounting to about one thousand dollars. That Warren D. C. Hall Senr., of Galveston County, is entitled to one fifth part of said estate as one of the five children of said deceased and that his interest in said estate has been conveyed to Peter Moregual of Brazoria County; that Walter T. Hall is entitled to one fifth part of said estate as son and heir of Braxton Hall, one of the children of said deceased; that Ellen Hopkins, Julia Parker and Austin Hall, children of William S. Hall, and an infant child of Martha Hall, deceased, one of the grandchildren of said William S. Hall, are entitled to one fifth part of said estate; that Warren D. C. Hall Jr., Wm. S. Hall, John W. Hall and A. J. Hall, children of John W. Hall, deceased, are entitled to one fifth part of said estate; that Elizabeth Towsy, Julietta Nelson, Martha Hall, and Mary Hall, are entitled to one fifth part of said estate as the children of Thomas J. Hall, one of the sons of said deceased. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd of March 1858, C. R. Cox, clk.”¹³

This probate document establishes that Warren D. C. Hall and William Sims Hall were brothers and that both were sons of Mary Hall. When this is combined with the information found in St. Landry Parish Church records, it follows that both William S. Hall and Warren D. C. Hall are children of Warren Hall and Mary Sims Hall of Union County, South Carolina. Other siblings named in the probate record are John W. Hall, Braxton Hall and Thomas J. Hall.

To support this conclusion, the records of Union County were examined. The records show that the Hall family was residing there from 1786, or possibly earlier, until at least 1801. This time period encompasses the estimated 1795 birth date of Warren D. C. Hall.

In the 1800 census of Union District, South Carolina, we find Warren Hall and Benjamin Hall listed next to William Sims. Warren Hall was enumerated with 7 young males, including 3 under age 10, an age group where our subject would fall.¹⁴

By 1810 Warren Hall was no longer present in Union District but was found in Rapides Parish, Louisiana. Warren D. C. Hall himself tells us

that he was residing in Natchitoches, Louisiana in 1811-1812 where he studied law under Judge William Murray.¹⁵ His brother, William S. Hall stated in his marriage record cited earlier that the family settled in Rapides in 1809.

A search of Union County records reveals that Warren Hall appeared in the Deed Records of the county from 1786 through 1801.¹⁶ In Deed Book A, p. 302-303, Warren Hall witnessed a sale of land on Broad River on 1 Nov 1786; Deed Book B, p. 203-205, Warren Hall witnessed a sale of land on Tyger River on 7 Feb 1788; Deed Book F, p. 166-7, Warren Hall proved a deed on 4 June 1799; Deed Book L, p. 196-7, Warren Hall of Union District, merchant, sold lots in Union Village, one lot, No. 46, occupied by Warren Hall on 3 April 1801. Molly Hall, his wife, relinquished her dower right on 6 April 1801; and Deed Book S, p. 479-80, Warren Hall bought land on the Tygar River and sold 3 lots in Union village to James Gage.

Hall also appeared in the Minutes of the County Court from 1786 through 1799 as follows:¹⁷ In Minute Book 88, Warren Hall vs. James Sims, debt, 1786, Dec. Court; Minute Book 362, Warren Hall vs. John Martin, P & S, 1793, June Court; Minute Book 399, Warren Hall and others ordered to appraise estate, 1794, September court; Minute Book 421, an application of Warren Hall, leave to retail spirituous liquors and keep a public house, 3 June 1795; Minute Book 458, license to retail at Pinckneyville for one year, Jan 1797; Minute Book 462, Thomas Stribling Jr. vs. Warren Hall & William Sims, debt, 7 Jan 1797; Minute Book 473, A. McBeth & Co. vs Warren Hall, trover, Wm. Sims bond, June 1797; Minute Book 485, Warren Hall vs. Archlaus Fore, writ debt, Jan 1798; and Minute Book 518, Thos. Perry & Thos. Wood vs. Warren Hall, debt, June 1799.

These records show that Warren was routinely appearing in Union County records throughout the period when his presumed son Warren D. C. was born. It seems probable that this is the Hall family from Union County which showed up in Rapides Parish in 1809.

We can state with reasonable assurance that Warren D. C. Hall of Union County, South Carolina was the son of Warren Hall and Mary Sims Hall, both of Virginia.

A third record from St. Landry Parish names Warren D.C. Hall's maternal grandparents. Mary Sims, wife of Warren Hall, was the daughter of Charles Sims and Sebe Bowls, all of Virginia.¹⁸ No information is available on the parents of Warren Hall at this time.

After the overthrow of the Spanish government of Texas in 1821, the five sons of Warren and Mary Hall named in Mary's probate record settled in Austin's Colony. John W. Hall settled in Washington County. The others, Warren D. C. Hall, William S. Hall, George Braxton Hall and Thomas Jefferson Hall settled in Brazoria County.

Warren D. C. Hall, known as Col. Hall, was born about 1795 probably in Union County, South Carolina, came to Louisiana in about 1809 and settled in Rapides Parish. He married his wife Juliette, surname unknown, on 1 March 1821 in Rapides Parish.¹⁹ Hall studied law and participated in several filibusters to overthrow the Spanish government of Mexico. He also served in the War of 1812 in the Battle of New Orleans. Warren D.C. Hall moved into Texas in 1828 becoming an Austin Colonist and was active politically and militarily in the Struggle for Texas independence. He settled in Brazoria County where he was a large land owner and plantation operator. Hall died in Galveston in 1867 and is buried in the Episcopal Cemetery in that city. More on Warren D. C. Hall is given in a companion article entitled "A Biography of Warren D. C. Hall (1795-1867), Texas Pioneer" by this author.

John W. Hall, known as Capt. Jack Hall, was born about 1786 in South Carolina, moved with his family to Louisiana in 1809 and settled in Rapides Parish. On 24 April 1810 he married Marie Louise Teal, a widow, in Opelousas.²⁰ Along with his brother, Warren D. C. Hall, he fought in the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition against the Spanish government of Mexico in 1812. He also served in the 17th, 18th and 19th

Consolidated Louisiana Regiments in January of 1815²¹ defending the city of New Orleans in the War of 1812.

John W. Hall was one of the “Old 300” settlers in Austin’s Colony. On 1 December 1823, J. Thomas of Alexandria, Louisiana, wrote to Austin that Hall desired to “go into your part of the country.” Thomas reported that Hall is a man “of respectable parentage and connection in this parish and is himself, so far as I am acquainted with him, a man of respectability and enterprise.”²²

On 10 July 1824, John Hall received title to two leagues and two labors of land joining his first league and land of A. Robinson opposite San Felipe.²³ Hall settled at the La Bahia Road crossing of the Brazos River where he married Patsy Robinson, daughter of his neighbor, Andrew Robinson. He was a farmer and stock raiser and operated a ferry there. On the 1826 census, John and his wife Patsy are listed with two young sons, four servants and twenty slaves.

On 25 April 1831, John received title to one league of land on the east side of the Brazos River. In 1831 his father-in-law, Andrew Robinson, gave the Hall’s a section of land on condition that they take care of him in his old age.²⁴ Hall recognized the site’s commercial potential and in December of 1833 laid out a town. He later bought the remainder of Robinson’s grant and, with partners, established the Washington Town Co. in 1835 to sell town lots. John W. Hall is credited with the foundation of Washington-on-the-Brazos. He became county judge and sheriff and helped to organize the county militia in 1835. During the revolution he furnished supplies for the Texian army.

The Audit Claim files of the Republic of Texas show that Hall was paid for seven beefs and meal in November 1839. He was also paid for services as Assistant Clerk, Dept. of State, from April 1839 to 1842. In 1842, he was paid for preparing an index of the laws and an abstract of the private acts and resolutions of the 6th Congress. In 1842, Hall was made Chief Clerk of the Department of State.²⁵

Capt. John W. Hall died at his residence near Washington, Texas, on the first of January 1845 at age 59. His obituary tells us that he was buried with Masonic rites. Both houses of Congress adjoined as a mark of respect and gratitude for all he had done for the Republic.²⁶ He was survived by sons Warren D. C. Hall, Jr., William S. Hall, John W. Hall, Jr. and A. J. Hall.

George Braxton Hall was born about 1790, presumably in South Carolina, and moved with his family to Louisiana in 1809. In 1815 he fought in the Battle of New Orleans. He, like his brothers John W. Hall and Warren D. C. Hall, was a Mason.

When Mexico threw off the yolk of Spanish rule, Stephen F. Austin was given a right to bring in three hundred families and settle them in Texas. George Braxton was one of these early settlers in the Austin Colony.

On 16 August 1824,²⁷ George Hall, Samuel T. Angier and Thomas Bradley received title to one league of land on the west side of Chocolate Creek [Bayou] in Brazoria County. They were obligated to cultivate the land within the two years prescribed by law. Also on 16 August 1824, George B. Hall and Thos. Bradley received title to one league of land on the east side of the Colorado River above the Atascocita crossing. The grantees were put in possession of this tract by being taken by the hand and being led over it and telling them in a loud voice that they were possessed of the land by virtue of the authority of the commission authorized by the government of Mexico. In recognition of their personal possession they shouted, pulled grass, threw stones, set stakes and performed other ceremonial rituals.²⁸

In 1828, George Braxton Hall married Letticia Mitchell Bradley, daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Bradley. George made his Last Will & Testament on 31 October 1829, naming his wife Letticia executrix and his brothers Warren D. C. Hall and William S. Hall as well as William Harris executors.²⁹ George died before 21 December 1829, leaving an infant son, Walter Turnbull Hall.

In April of 1835, Warren D. C. Hall applied to Silas Dinsmore, primary judge of the jurisdiction of Columbia, for tutorship of the child, Walter, then about six years old. Warren stated that it was his brother's wish that he should have the child and that he was childless and could afford to provide for the child's education. He also asserted that the mother forfeited her right to tutorship when she was married for the second time to John A. Gates. Hall's application for tutorship was approved 25 April 1835 in the Department of Brazos, Jurisdiction of Columbia (Brazoria).

William Sims Hall was born about 1793 in Union County, South Carolina. Two records from St. Landry Parish, Louisiana inform us about William's birth in 1793 and his origin in Union County, South Carolina as well as his marriage in Louisiana.

William Sims Hall of South Carolina, son of Warren Hall and Marie Sims, both of Virginia, was baptized at the Opelousas Catholic Church on 9 October 1816. He was then 23 years of age.³⁰

William Sims Hall of Union County, South Carolina, son of Warren Hall and Mary Sims Hall of Virginia, in Rapides for seven years, was married to Susanne Stouts in Opelousas on 10 October 1816.³¹

William S. Hall was in the militia called up from Rapides Parish, Louisiana to defend the city of New Orleans against British attack in 1815. When Mexico gained independence from Spain, he moved with his family and became an early settler in Austin's Colony. He received a grant of a league of land in July of 1824.³² William S. Hall served as captain of the third company of Stephen F. Austin's militia battalion in 1826.

On 14 October 1835, Hall was appointed an army contractor with responsibility for raising food and supplies for the Texas army. On 13 November, he retrieved the cannon lost in Matagorda Bay with the sinking of the schooner *San Felipe*. He resigned on 18 November 1835 after he was reprimanded by Stephen F. Austin for impressing horses and arms from the poorest

citizens and then failing to return the property at the end of the campaign.

William Sims Hall died late in 1839 leaving his widow and daughters, Ellen and Julia, and son Austin Hall. In January 1840, his will was filed for probate by his widow, Susanna Hall, Adm.³³

On 16 March 1847, Susannah Hall (Mrs. Wm. S.) filed suit against Warren D. C. Hall et al, to appear in Brazoria District Court, No. 1250. She charged that he bought slaves at the estate sale of her late husband giving a mortgage to pay within one year. He did not pay and in fact sold or remortgaged the mortgaged slaves.

Thomas Jefferson Hall was born about 1809. He moved from Louisiana to Texas and in 1824 received one labour of land. The 1830 Register of Austin Colonists includes Thomas Jefferson Hall, age 21, and his wife Nancy, age 20. On 8 September 1847, Probate file # 231 was opened in Brazoria County, Texas for Nancy Ann Hall, deceased, wife of Thomas Jefferson Hall.³⁴ Thomas J. Hall died before 1856 leaving three daughters, Julietta Hall, Martha Hall and Mary Hall.³⁵ His probate case # 631 was opened in Brazoria County on 11 February 1856.³⁶

In summary, evidence has been produced to establish that Warren D. C. Hall was born about 1795 to Warren Hall and Mary Sims Hall of Union County, South Carolina; that his maternal grandparents were Charles Sims and Sebe Bowles of Virginia; that both of his parents were originally from Virginia; that their children included John W. Hall, Warren D. C. Hall, William Sims Hall, George Braxton Hall and Thomas Jefferson Hall; and that all the children were residents of Austin's Colony. All but George Braxton Hall, who died early, lived in the Republic of Texas. With the correction of faulty data provided in the biographical literature, it is now possible to extend the research on this early Texas patriot and his family.

Author Rose Mary Fritz may be reached at 5001 Casa Grande, Dickinson, TX 77539, or at rmfritz26@comcast.net.

¹ (a) “Warren D. C. Hall” in *Handbook of Texas Online*, (b) Jesse A. Ziegler, *Wave of the Gulf* (San Antonio: Naylor, 1938), 271-273, (c) Dr. J. O. Dyer in *The Scottish Rite Herald*, Nov. 1919, p. 5, (d) Mary Smith Fay, *War of 1812 Veterans in Texas*, (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1994), 128, (e) *Brief Sketches of Noted Texans*, manuscript by Ben C. Stuart, 1916, (f) *Biographical Directory of the Texan Conventions & Congresses 1832-45* (Austin: Book Exchange, Inc., 1941).

² Gifford E. White, *1830 Citizens of Texas* (Austin, Texas: Eakin Press, 1983), 12.

³ 1850 U. S. census, pop. sch., Brazoria County, Texas, dwelling/family 242, p. 398, W.D.C. Hall household, NARA M 432, roll 908.

⁴ 1860 U. S. census, pop. sch., Galveston County, Texas, dwelling 1286, family 1277, W.D.C. Hall household, p. 428, NARA M 653, roll 1294.

⁵ Charles E. Raymond, Jr., *Rapides Parish Pensioners in the War of 1812* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977), 70.

⁶ Warren D. C. Hall, entry, Trinity Episcopal Church Record Book, Galveston, Texas, 34.

⁷ Pam Wheat, letter in the History Center of Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

⁸ C. E. Raymond, Jr., *Rapides Parish Pensioners of the War of 1812* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977), 70.

⁹ Rev. Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, vol. 2, (Eunice, Louisiana: self-published, 1974), 419.

¹⁰ 1810 U. S. census, pop. sch., Rapides, Territory of Orleans, Louisiana, Warren Hall household, p. 281, NARA M252, roll 10.

¹¹ 1820 U. S. census, pop. sch., Rapides Parish, Louisiana, Mary Hall household, p. 135, NARA M33, roll 31.

¹² Eugene C. Barker, Ed., *The Austin Papers* (Washington: USGPO, 1928-34) vol. 2, pt. 2, p. 1141.

¹³ Brazoria County, Texas Probate Case # 239, Filed Jan. 31, 1853, Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas.

¹⁴ 1800 U. S. census, pop. sch., Union District, South Carolina, Warren Hall, Benj. Hall, William Sims households, roll 50, p. 217.

¹⁵ James M. Day, Comp., *The Texas Almanac 1857-1873* (Waco, Texas: Texian Press, 1967), 456. “Revolution in Texas 1812” from notes furnished by Col. W. D. C. Hall.

¹⁶ Brent H. Holcomb, *Union County, South Carolina Deed Abstracts*, vol. 1, 3, 4, 1785-1820 (Columbia, SC: SCMAR, 1998). Various deed book and page numbers provided in the text.

¹⁷ Brent Holcomb, *Union County, South Carolina, Minutes of the County Court 1785-1799* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1979), Book and page numbers provided in the text.

¹⁸ Rev. Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, Vol. 1, (Eunice, Louisiana: 1974), 513.

¹⁹ This marriage date was given in a deposition in a Brazoria County, Texas District Court case, March term 1843.

²⁰ Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records*, Vol. 1: 267.

²¹ Charles E. Raymond, Jr., Ed., *Rapides Parish Pensioners in the War of 1812* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977), 6.

²² Eugene C. Barker, *The Austin Papers*, Vol. 1: 712.

²³ *An Abstract of Original Titles of Record in the Government Land Office, 1838*, LDS fiche 6051319, page 2.

²⁴ “Robinson, Andrew” in *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/RR/fro35.html>.

²⁵ Audit Claim files of the Republic of Texas are available at Clayton Library in Houston, Texas.

²⁶ *Texas National Register*, January 4, 1845, p. 3, c. 4.

²⁷ *An Abstract of Original Titles of Record in the General Land Office, 1838*, page 2. LDS fiche 6051319.

²⁸ J. W. Moore, *The History of Liverpool, Texas and Its People* (Houston: The Liverpool History Book Committee, 1996), 92-95.

²⁹ Jacquelyn Waites, *Journey of the Heart, The Story of Letticia (Bradley) Hall Gates Bullock* (Bryan, Texas: self-published, 1995), 100.

³⁰ *Southwest Louisiana Records*, vol. 1, p. 268.

³¹ *Ibid*, vol. 2, p. 419.

³² *An Abstract of Original Titles of Record in the General Land Office, 1838*, page 2. LDS fiche 6051319.

³³ Brazoria County, Texas Probate file #203, Martha Hall, et al minors. Will record A347, bond A306, Land certificate A86.

³⁴ Brazoria County, Texas Will Book 100, Probate #231, 1847. Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas.

³⁵ Brazoria County, Texas, Probate files # 237, # 238, # 236. Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas.

³⁶ Brazoria County, Texas Probate file #631. Brazoria County Courthouse, Angleton, Texas.

Warren D. C. Hall's tombstone and historical marker in Episcopal Cemetery, Galveston, Texas.

"In Memory of
Warren D.C. Hall
Died
April 10th 1867,
Aged
73 Years."



"Warren D. C. Hall
(1788 - April 8, 1867)

North Carolina native Warren DeWitt Clinton Hall was an early immigrant to Texas who took part in several military expeditions against Spain and Mexico. He served as acting Secretary of War for the Republic of Texas at the time of the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836. A successful attorney and active supporter of Masonic activities, Hall lived in Galveston from 1842 until his death in 1867. Hall County in the Texas Panhandle is named in his honor.

Recorded - 1994"



BAGS Quarterly Obit – James Powell Sherwood

Galveston Daily News, 21 March 1894, page 10, column 2.

“J.P. Sherwood Dead. The Oldest of the Early Settlers on Galveston Island Has Departed. He Knew Sam Houston and Gail Borden – Knew Lieutenant Campbell of Lafitte’s Force. The oldest landmark yields at last to the touch of time and passes out of sight forever. The oldest early settler in Galveston has passed on.

James P. Sherwood has paid his debt to nature, and has gone to that bourne whence no traveler returns. The deceased was born in the town of Easton, Md., on April 3, 1811. He was raised in the city of Baltimore, where he served a seven-years’ apprenticeship at the ship-joining trade, and when he became a master workman he took passage on a sailing vessel for the port of New Orleans, in 1835. There he was engaged in fitting out the Texas navy. He then returned to his home in Baltimore, where his attention was attracted by a bird’s-eye view of Galveston, which had been prepared and was being exhibited by some real estate dealers. Upon the representation of Messrs. McKinney & Williams, he came to the island on October 11, 1837, bringing with him five house frames. Two of these houses comprised the old William Tell hotel, which was erected on Market street, near the site of the present opera house.

It was the custom in those early days for workmen to carry their arms, as well as work tools, and one day, when working on this building, he shot two deer on a spot where is now the Bank Exchange.

He built the first frame house known to be erected on the island. It now stands at the corner of O½ and Twenty-fifth streets. It was once a customs bonded warehouse. Afterward it became the post office. It was situated at the foot of Twenty-fourth street on the bay, and was removed when P.J. Willis & Bro. began their business block.

On his arrival at Galveston, 1837, he was met by Gail Borden, the inventor of condensed milk, who was about that time customs officer. Mr. Borden extended him the hospitalities of his home, and there he met Mrs. Borden, the only living woman on Galveston Island. Having cast his fortunes with the early pioneers of Texas, he was always interested in her welfare, and especially in Galveston’s progress and prosperity.

He was a soldier and organized a company, and with them went to Austin to protect the workmen on the capitol building from Indian hostility. He was in several engagements with Indians, among which was the famous Plum Creek fight. He was an intimate friend and admirer of General Sam Houston, and indorsed his views on all leading questions. In the last moments of his earthly life he was paying a tribute of respect to his honored deceased friend.

While he was a man of modest habits, those lines were cast in humble private life, yet he has served in public places. He was the first quarantine officer at Galveston and served a term as alderman in 1861. He was captain of ordnance during the recent unpleasantness, and was made a political prisoner on the gunboat Harriet Lane and was kept there for quite a time, and when liberated General Magruder desired him to fit out a vessel that could capture the Harriet Lane, but he, desiring to visit his wife and children, leave was granted for him to proceed on his journey, during which time the capture of the Harriet Lane was effected.

He was ship carpenter of the first boat that made the trip up the Trinity river. They got within ten miles of Dallas, and the water falling, they could proceed no further. The boat being abandoned he walked back as far as Houston on his return to Galveston.

He was always opposed to annexation and great was his surprise when he heard the first telegram passing over the wire from Washington to Baltimore, where he was on a visit home. It announced the annexation of Texas. He saw it bulletined and then he felt the individual glory of the lone star would be swallowed up by merging into the union.

About this time, when he had returned to Galveston, he was the first juror to rebel against the practice of serving on the jury without remuneration. This or any other service he was willing to give the republic of Texas without the hope of fee or reward, but now Texas was one of the union and he held a juror should be remunerated for his service. The court took a different view of the matter and Judge Sweat had him committed for contempt. Here he amused himself by singing the national air of the republic, "Will You Come to the Bower." His friends supplied him with luxuries and encouraged him to battle for what they believed was right.

He built a pilot house on a steamboat of peculiar fashion (at that time) in style and location. He named it "Texas," and it is a well known location now-a-days among steamboat men.

He built the first turn table laid down in Galveston for the Galveston, Houston and Henderson railroad company. He was for many years foreman of the wharf company, in the employ of McKinney & Williams, and about this time invented the method of sinking piles by hydraulic pumping. He used a piece of iron pipe. Afterward he explained this process to Lieutenant Stevens, a United States officer, who adopted what is now a common method for sinking piles. Hitherto a hammer had been used with little avail.

In the early days, where now stately buildings adorn paved thoroughfares, only marshes and rank weeds were to be found, and hidden in them were snakes and mosquitoes. The pioneers would cut grass and burn it in a circle where they slept to keep away reptiles, etc. The Carankaway [sic] Indians inhabited the island then and wild animals were abundant and

dangerous. He knew personally Lieutenant Campbell, the chief officer of Lafitte, the treat pirate, whose headquarters were on this island. He was once entertained at the home of Lieutenant Campbell, who related many interesting incidents of his life with Lafitte.

He came to a wild, barren strip of sand, and saw it grow gradually into the promising proportions of to-day, and he felt his race was run and he was ready to yield up to the last demand.

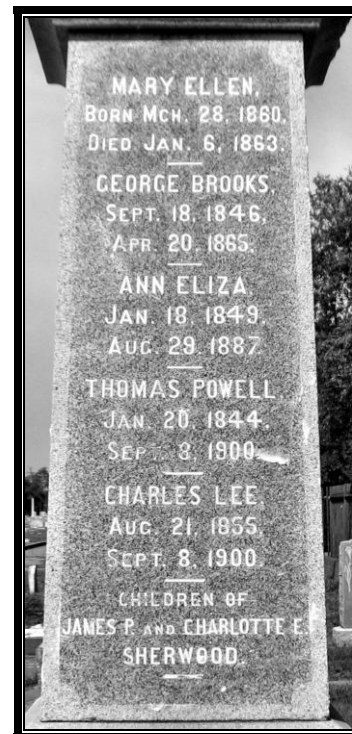
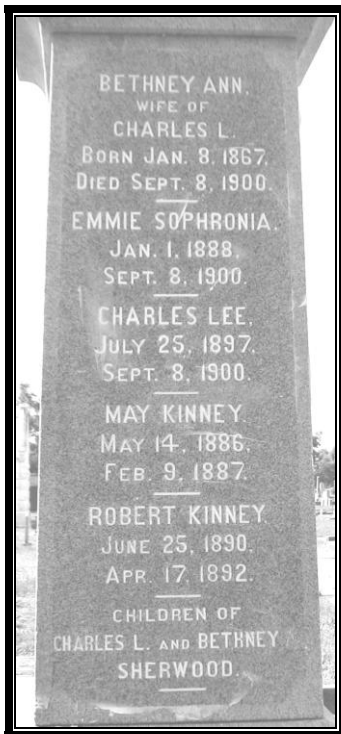
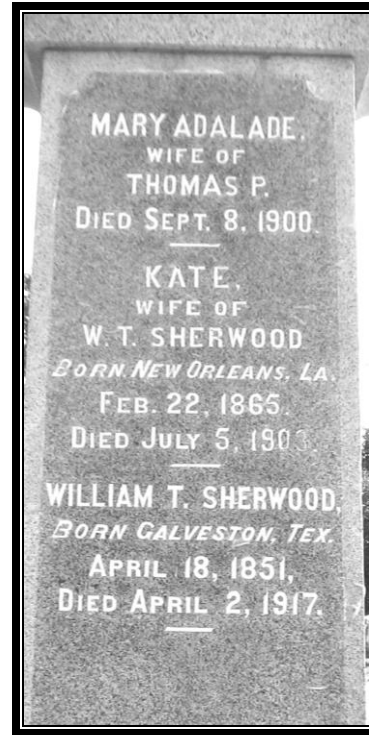
Only a few of the old veterans' association remain. When in health he always met with his comrades in their reunions and was ever ready to relate his experiences of early Texas days.

He bought the first cemetery lot from the city when Mayor Allen was Mayor in the republic of Texas, and while not a member of his family has ever occupied it he said he intended to lie there in his final rest and now after nearly sixty years his wish will be granted.

He was married March 8, 1843, to Charlotte E. Robinson, who bore him eight children, five of whom survive him, viz: Thomas P., born in the republic of Texas; William T., James D., Charles L. and Phronie. There were also three grandchildren, viz: J. E. Alexander, his sister Lottie and the little daughter of Charles L. Sherwood.

At 12:30 o'clock p.m. yesterday his spirit quit its earthly tabernacle. He died as a lamp goes out, when the oil is consumed. Surrounded by his entire family he gently sank to sleep."

Tragedy struck the family six years following James P. Sherwood's death. Son Charles L. Sherwood, his wife and two children died when the 1900 Storm hit Galveston. Another son, Thomas P. Sherwood, his wife and two children also died during the storm. According to the *1900 Storm Recorded Deaths* website, one of the children of Thomas Sherwood survived. The death date of September 8, 1900 is inscribed for six of the family members on the monument in Galveston's Old City Cemetery. Photos of the Sherwood monument are on the following page.



Photos of the Sherwood monument in Galveston's Old City Cemetery, courtesy of Floyd L. Martin.

Mount Olivet Cemetery Transcription Project

As visitors enter the Mount Olivet Cemetery grounds, the mausoleum complex is located on the first road to the right. The mausoleum is divided into three buildings: the main chapel building and two square buildings or annexes in front of the main building. The transcription of the main building's interior was included in the December 2008 issue of the Quarterly, and the following list is the transcription of the exterior of this main building. All of the mausoleum walls are divided into five rows, lettered A to E with row A on the bottom and E on the top. The column numbers are listed at the top of each row.

The exterior markers are bronze with years of birth and death only with a very few exceptions when the entire date is shown. In many cases, a living spouse is named with his or her birth year.

The transcription of the main building's exterior begins with Column 102, Row A on the bottom of the south wing (shown below) and moves in order to the top of the north wing. The numbering system changes several times on the main building exterior. There are alcoves on

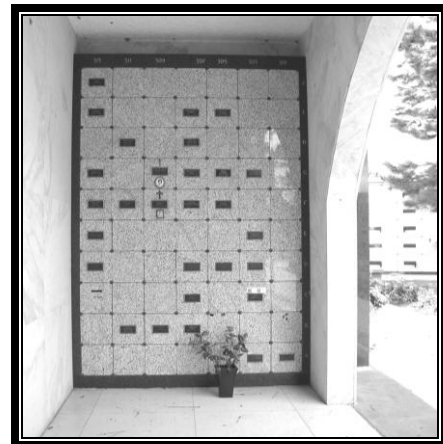
both sides that are numbered differently from the outer face. Cremains are placed around the entrance doors, and these also have a different numbering sequence. When two or more people share a space, that information is shown under the remarks column.

Members of the BAGS Cemetery Transcription team are: Thelma Atwood, Renee Ball, Annette Bowen, Mary Brandhorst, Alice Braud-Jones, Carolyn DuBois, Laresa Evans, Tammy Frey, Rose Mary Fritz, Deborah Gammon, Susie Ganch, Claudia Grafton, Resa Hennings, Melodey Hauch, Signe Hawley, Ann Little, Malvina Lutz, Kathleen Maca, Loren Martin, Mary Martin, Sue McCown, Angela Mendoza, Carlos Mendoza, Dianna Miller, Neil Miserendino, Bonnie Morris-Conrad, Rose Mary Parks, Geri Smith, Helene Stein, Carole Varnado, Will Varnado, Don Versluys, Doug Wilson and Polly Wilson.

The June 2009 issue of the BAGS Quarterly will complete the mausoleum complex with transcriptions from the two annexes.



The south wing of the mausoleum.



Cremains section on north side.

Section 1. Mount Olivet Mausoleum, Main Building

Part 2. Exterior Front from South end to North end

Column/ Row	Full Name	Born	Died	Remarks
102 A	De Santo, Joseph F. Sr.	1904	1992	
102 A	De Santo, Parthenia R.	1907	1991	Shared with Joseph
102 D	Graustein, Alfred M.	1920	1993	
102 D	Graustein, Evelyn L.	1918	1990	Shared with Alfred
104 C	Fee, Clarence W. Sr.	1921	2008	
104 C	Fee, Henrietta M.	1927		Shared with Clarence
104 E	Perez, Celedonio C.	1921	1994	
104 E	Perez, Maria I.	1918	2008	Shared with Celedonio
108 A	Branch, Mary Gladys	1924		
108 A	Branch, Betty Joyce	1953		Shared with Mary
108 B	Hennessy, Earl W.	1926		
108 B	Hennessy, Mae Lou	1929	2003	Shared with Earl
108 C	Blass, Edward R.	1921		
108 C	Blass, Ann O.	1924	1996	Shared with Edward
108 D	Guerra, Raul	1931	2003	
108 D	Guerra, Betty	1931		Shared with Raul
108 E	Baldwin, Robert L.	1924		
108 E	Baldwin, Mary F.	1920		Shared with Robert
110 D	Krippner, Karl W.	1902	1982	
110 D	Krippner, Lucy M.	1909	2005	Shared with Karl
112 C	Williams, Lorrin W.	1930	2008	
112 C	Williams, Gloria Z.	1928		Shared with Lorrin
114 B	Konecny, Henry L.	1930	2001	
114 B	Konecny, Doris M.	1930		Shared with Henry
114 C	Faget, Max A.	1921	2004	
114 C	Faget, Nancy C.	1925	1994	Shared with Max
114 D	Morales, Salvador A.	1927		
114 D	Morales, Mary Helen	1929		Shared with Salvador
114 E	Zganich, George	1925		
114 E	Zganich, Carmen	1924		Shared with George
201 B	Laine, Dale E. Sr.	1931		

Section 1. Mount Olivet Mausoleum, Main Building

Part 2. Exterior Front from South end to North end

Column/ Row	Full Name	Born	Died	Remarks
201 B	Laine, Patt F.	1931	1995	Shared with Dale
201 C	Endresen, Ernest E.	1918	1991	
201 C	Endresen, Lorraine E.	1918		Shared with Ernest
2 D	Janecek, S. E. "Jim"	1918	1998	
2 D	Janecek, Otillia	1923	2008	Shared with S.E.
2 E	Janecek, James E.	1948	1979	
6 A	Garcia, Joe G.	1926		
6 A	Garcia, Irma V.	1927		Shared with Joe
6 B	Meza, Joe Ignatius	1921	2005	
6 B	Meza, Lorene Phillips	1920		Shared with Joe
6 D	Porretto, Antoinette F.	1924	1999	
8 D	Kammer, Robert Paul	1922	2001	U.S. Air Force
8 E	Solomon, Fred Joseph	1952	2005	
202 B	Mazzara, Vincent B.	1920	2005	Photo
202 B	Mazzara, Maria V.			Shared with Vincent
116 B	Trochesset, Wallace L.	1936		
116 B	Trochesset, Joan B.	1939	2002	Shared with Wallace
116 C	Carbone, Luigi	1904	1992	Photo
116 C	Carbone, Angelina	1904	1999	Photo, shared with Luigi
116 E	Blackburn, Marvin Eugene	1919	2004	
116 E	Blackburn, Della Mae	1917	2001	Shared with Marvin
118 B	Blanchard, Earl	1928	2005	
118 B	Blanchard, Rose	1931		Shared with Earl
118 D	Weber, Dan H.	1926	1993	
118 D	Weber, Corrie B.	1932		Shared with Dan
118 E	Ramos, Rudolph B.	1924	2008	
118 E	Ramos, Trinidad C.	1925	2004	Shared with Rudolph
120 A	Magruder, Chester H.	1922		
120 A	Magruder, Ann F.	1928		Shared with Chester
120 B	Sanchez, Ernest T., Sr.	1917	1997	
120 B	Sanchez, Rosalie A.	1919	2006	Shared with Ernest

Section 1. Mount Olivet Mausoleum, Main Building

Part 2. Exterior Front from South end to North end

Column/ Row	Full Name	Born	Died	Remarks
120 D	Robert, Lloyd J.	1927	1993	
120 D	Robert, Evelyn	1926		Shared with Lloyd
120 E	Vasquez, Guadalupe A.	1926	1990	
120 E	Vasquez, Lupe L.	1933		Shared with Guadalupe
122 A	Robich, Frank Sr.	1937	2000	
122 A	Robich, Nina	1937		Shared with Frank
122 A	Robich, Mario	1970	1990	Small plaque
122 B	Oakes, William J.	1940		
122 B	Oakes, Rita M.	1944		Shared with William
122 C	Baker, Harold Lee	1930		
122 C	Baker, Carolyn Agnes	1933		Shared with Harold
122 D	Finazzo, Carlo C.	1927		
122 D	Finazzo, Angelina M.	1926		Shared with Carlo
122 E	Stratman, Rev. Joseph L.	1951		
122 E	Stratman, Judith Ann	1964	2005	Shared with Rev. Joseph
124 A	Simon, Dave	1924	2002	
124 A	Simon, Mary Grace	1931		Shared with Dave
124 C	Michel, Edward L.	1926	2007	
124 C	Michel, Joan F.	1932	1999	Shared with Edward
124 D	Edrozo, Lawrence C.	1926	2002	
124 D	Edrozo, Helen S.	1932		Shared with Lawrence
124 E	Stratman, Joseph L.	1924	2007	
124 E	Stratman, Elizabeth Doyle	1928		Shared with Joseph
128B	Cooper, James L.	1915	1987	
128 B	Cooper, Evelyn L.	1926		Shared with James
128 D	Starr, George R.	1930		
128 D	Starr, Dorothy M.	1929		Shared with George
128 E	Svahn, Milton P.	1927	1991	
128 E	Svahn, Ann M.	1921	1994	Shared with Milton
Columns 302 - 314, Cremains beside the Door, South Side				
302 B	Staten, Gene	09/14/24	10/31/06	

Section 1. Mount Olivet Mausoleum, Main Building
Part 2. Exterior Front from South end to North end

Column/ Row	Full Name	Born	Died	Remarks
302 C	Daumas, Emilio Jorge "Papito"	1929	2001	
302 D	Justice, Lori A.	1953	1990	
302 F	Klementich, Erich Frank	1942	2002	
302 G	Bertoni, Peter A., Jr.	1911	2005	
302 J	Amato, John A.	1947	2006	
304 B	Staten, Emelia Ann	1933	2000	
304 E	Rinehart, Jeremy Austin W.	1995	1996	
304 G	Bertoni, Dolores G.	1913		
304 H	Hartman, Lauri A.	1961	1993	
306 C	Evans, Martha	1927	1997	
306 D	Justice, Arnold H.	1927	1992	
306 E	Chavarria, Albert, Jr.	1955	1994	
306 F	Campiran, Christopher Jesus		2000	
306 I	Neyra, Roberto A.	1955	2003	Photo
308 B	Cloutier, Gaston R.	1927	1996	
308 C	Wethington, Jeremy	12/13/79	05/03/98	
308 D	Martinez, Sofia E.	1939	1989	
308 E	Hartell, Georgette Rhodes	1900	1990	
308 F	Poteet, Robert H.	1938	1995	
310 C	Beverlin, Cecelia Ann	06/07/46	09/11/03	
310 E	Miller, David Michael	1937		
310 E	Miller, Barbara Joy	No dates		Shared with David
312 D	Bridges, David M.	1936	2008	
312 E	Roberts, Norman J.	1912	1990	
312 H	Marrero, Wayne W.	1961	2004	
314 C	Tamburine, Gladys "Bonnie"	1924	2004	
314 E	Roberts, Carmella T.	1908	1992	
314 F	Pennock, Christopher A.	1964	1995	
314 G	Quigley, Russell	No dates		
314 G	Quigley, Marianna	No dates		Shared with Russell
Columns 313 - 301, Cremains beside the Door, North Side				

Section 1. Mount Olivet Mausoleum, Main Building
Part 2. Exterior Front from South end to North end

Column/ Row	Full Name	Born	Died	Remarks
313 C	Inscription missing in 2008			
313 D	Parker, Gene C.	1925	1998	
313 E	Van Allen, Elaine C.	1934	1994	
313 F	Little, Paul Carl	1925	2005	
313 G	McDavid, Berry Lee, Jr.	1930	2004	
313 I	Espinoza, Larry A.	1957	2005	
313 J	Garcia, Ruby	1988	2003	
311 B	Frederick, Mary	10/15/40	02/20/07	
311 F	Bodre, Robert J.	1921	2008	
311 H	Logue, Ita B.	12/15/29	02/03/07	
309 B	Lloyd, John G.	1927	1999	
309 F	Bodre, Irene F.	1923	1996	Photo
309 G	Hollis, Soledad Rebeca Montes	1937	2003	Photo
307 B	Uran, Debra Jo	1954		
307 C	Morris, Edna G.	1917	1997	
307 D	Cardenas, Paul A.	1970	1990	
307 F	de Chong, Rosa Ines Barrientos	1929		
307 G	Triola, Richard D.	1964	1989	
307 H	Huehlefeld, Judie Kay	09/11/42	03/20/06	
307 I	Hilbert, Margaret L.	1943	2008	
305 B	Loranger, Michelle Denise	11/06/61	02/13/06	Inscription missing/2008
305 D	Cardenas, Humberto	1948	1990	
305 F	Simmons, Sybil J.	1930	1999	
305 G	Powers, Betty	11/29/27	10/28/03	
305 I	Johnson, Richard D.	1931	2008	
303 A	Christensen, Macella	1938	2003	
303 C	Sandoval, Pete	1947	1997	
303 D	Jaeggi, Robert W., Jr.	1975	1994	
303 E	Chesshir, Juanita L.	1924	1956	
303 G	Eldridge, James M.	1921	1995	
301 A	Watson, Christina D.	1961	2000	

Section 1. Mount Olivet Mausoleum, Main Building

Part 2. Exterior Front from South end to North end

Column/ Row	Full Name	Born	Died	Remarks
301 B	Loranger, Brian John	1967	2000	Inscription missing/2008
101 A	Elizondo, Pete L.	1950	1971	
101 D	Gremillion, Clifton M.	1918	1997	
101 D	Gremillion, Norma M.	1921		Shared with Clifton
101 E	Warner, William J.	1923	2001	
101 E	Warner, Giuliana C.	1927		Shared with William
103 B	Martin, Sidney J.	1916	1992	
103 B	Martin, Cecile D.	1917		Shared with Sidney
103 B	Martin, S. J. III "Jay"	1940	1998	Small plaque
103 D	Dezengotita, Felix G.	1918	1993	
103 D	Dezengotita, Anna M.	1921	2005	Shared with Felix
103 E	Cotton, James D.	1931		
103 E	Cotton, Margaret Y.	1931	1992	Shared with James
105 A	Adams, Johnnie T.	1931		
105 A	Adams, Joan M.	1931	1999	Shared with Johnnie
105 C	Hartmann, Frank J.	1925	1990	
105 C	Hartmann, Elsie J.	1925		Shared with Frank
105 D	Kolensky, Stella	1908	1991	
105 E	Richter, Kenneth C.	1931	1994	
105 E	Richter, Bernice M.	1936		Shared with Kenneth
107 A	Berend, James A.	1943	2005	
107 A	Berend, Donna Donoho	1945		Shared with James
107 E	McDonald, J. P.	1910	1992	
107 E	McDonald, Mary J.	1914	1989	Shared with J.P.
109 A	Mouton, Joseph A. Sr.	1930	1998	
109 A	Mouton, Ester M.	1942		Shared with Joseph
109 B	Andrisek, Martin J.	1921	1997	U.S. Marine Corps
109 B	Andrisek, Lavenia J.	1930		Shared with Martin
111 A	Stauffer, Wilbur J.	1922		
111 A	Stauffer, Mary C.	1922	2008	Shared with Wilbur
111 D	de la Houssaye, Edward J.	1934		

Section 1. Mount Olivet Mausoleum, Main Building

Part 2. Exterior Front from South end to North end

Column/ Row	Full Name	Born	Died	Remarks
111 D	de la Houssaye, Mary	1940		Shared with Edward
111 E	Bolcik, Larry	1943	2002	
111 E	Bolcik, Betty	1945		Shared with Larry
113 C	Fridye, John J.	1929		
113 C	Fridye, Coaina J.	1931	2006	Shared with John
113 C	Dodd, Anne Marie	1958	1995	Shared with the Fridyes
203 B	Garcia, Jesse P.	1906	2000	
203 B	Garcia, Maria J.	1906	1998	Shared with Jesse
1A	Bartel, Harry J.	1941	2005	
1B	Davis, William Russell	1918	1989	
1B	Davis, Margaret Olive	1916	1997	Shared with William
1C	Ewald, Fred C., Sr.	1922	1993	
1C	Ewald, Ruth M.	1927	1997	Shared with Fred
1E	Sawyer, Irene Marie	1933	2005	
3D	Alvarez, Marcial	1944		
3D	Alvarez, Teresa	1946		Shared with Marcial
5D	Reyna, Jose Jr.	1933		
204 A	Muir, Cecil J.	1925	1997	Photo of both
204 A	Muir, Alicia G.	1925		Shared with Cecil
204 B	Ghirardi, George J.	1926	1999	
204 B	Ghirardi, Thelma C.	1928	2005	Shared with George
204 C	Rabon, Joe B.	1925	1990	
204 C	Rabon, Jean	1927		Shared with Joe
204 D	Del Papa, Ivaldo O.	1913	1978	
204 D	Del Papa, Lillian E.	1924	1990	Shared with Ivaldo
204 E	Haley, Don E., Sr.	1924	2005	
204 E	Haley, Marie	1923	2008	Shared with Don
115 D	Gambini, Leda Iacopi	1908	1990	
115 E	McDaniel, William F.	1936		
115 E	McDaniel, Texas V.	1912	2008	Shared with William
117 B	Treaccar, Heiman H.	1918	1990	

Section 1. Mount Olivet Mausoleum, Main Building
Part 2. Exterior Front from South end to North end

Column/ Row	Full Name	Born	Died	Remarks
117 B	Treaccar, Annie P. (Biggs)	1920		Shared with Heiman
117 C	Sitzman, John W.	1926	1989	
117 C	Sitzman, Bernice E.	1926		Shared with John
119 E	Gimenez, Frank William	1926	1990	
119 E	Gimenez, Janie Margaret	1931		Shared with Frank
121 C	Myers, Yetta A.	1934	1990	
121 C	Myers, Gaye E.	1964		Shared with Yetta
121 E	Broussard, Nuncio J.	1930	1997	
121 E	Broussard, Shirley F.	1935		Shared with Nuncio
123 A	Hernandez, Mario, Sr.	1949	2006	
123 A	Hernandez, Alicia R.	1950		Shared with Mario
123 C	Critelli, Richard J.	1928		
123 C	Critelli, Antoinette	1928		Shared with Richard
123 D	Watson, Charles W., Sr.	1932	1999	
123 D	Watson, Evelyn C.	1938		Shared with Charles
123 E	Morell, Clyde D.	1938		
123 E	Morell, Janet M.	1941	1991	Shared with Clyde
125 A	Rodriguez, Manuel	1958		
125 C	Bealer, Russell J.	1922	2005	
125 C	Bealer, Mary E.	1927		Shared with Russell
125 E	Lowery, Lewis A.	1945		
125 E	Lowery, Cynthia W.	1948		Shared with Lewis
127 A	Rodriguez, Marvin S.	1926		
127 A	Rodriguez, Jacinta C.	1931	2002	Shared with Marvin
127 C	Wallett, James P.	1905	1990	
127 C	Wallett, Lenora S.	1920		Shared with James
127 D	Disiere, Frances A.	1931	1995	
127 D	Disiere, Stephen L.	1951	1992	Shared with Frances
127 E	Malveaux, Joseph A.	1923	2001	
127 E	Malveaux, Frances	1932		Shared with Joseph

Use Multiple Sources to Verify Facts

Donna Murray

Proper documentation is to genealogy what good evidence is to a detective. You can't build a solid case without it. That's why experts recommend substantiating important events with three different sources. Why three? Because even the most reliable documents often contain wrong data. Just because birth and death certificates and marriage records are considered official documents doesn't mean they're accurate. Moreover, facts may conflict. A marriage record may give a birth date, for example, that doesn't match the one on that person's birth certificate.

Death certificates are notoriously inaccurate. Except for the date of death, the remainder of the information is provided by an informant whose memory could be in need of an upgrade. He or she may have no clue where the decedent was born, who his parents were or how old he was and may simply guess at the answers. A good researcher uses the death certificate as a guideline and chases down other resources to corroborate the data.

Sources come in two categories: primary and secondary. A death certificate is a primary source for a person's death date because it was created when the event occurred. That same document is a secondary source for his birth date. But don't get hung up on terms. Save your mental energy for acquiring enough proof to ensure you're creating an accurate historical account.

Marriage license applications are generally reliable since the people directly involved personally give the information. Still, discrepancies exist. My grandfather, Elijah Murray, married my grandmother, Addie Mills, on Aug. 26, 1908. On their marriage license application, Elijah stated that he had been married once before and that his spouse, Sara Leichliter Murray, died on Oct. 27, 1891. Whoa! Wait a minute. Not likely. Elijah and

Sara had three sons whose births in 1892, 1894 and 1897 are well documented. When their daughter died in March 1902, Sara was named in the obituary as a survivor.

Unfortunately, Sara is buried in an unmarked grave. No tombstone to check. A quick inspection of the county's Death Books showed Sara's demise as Oct. 27, 1902. She was 31. Two (official) public records. Two very different dates. A third document, a microfilmed issue of the local newspaper, resolved the problem. Sara's death was mentioned in the weekly gossip column, *Mountain Matters*. The item was published on Oct. 31, 1902. Ta-da!

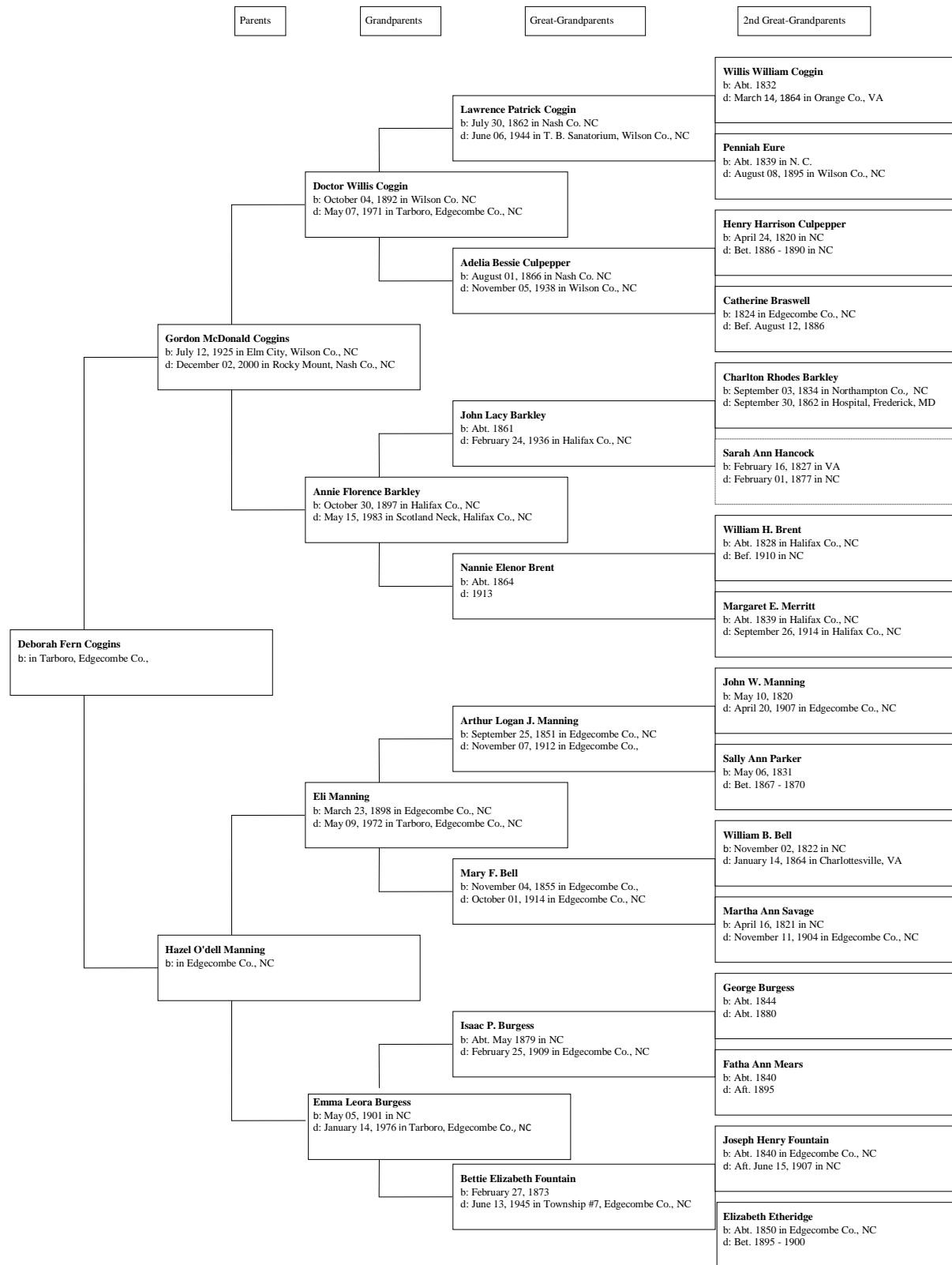
Published family histories contain errors. The most beautifully bound book, complete with a Library of Congress Catalog Card Number, may be hopelessly flawed. An International Standard Book Number is not a seal of approval. The contents are not independently verified before publication. It's up to you to do the legwork.

Likewise for local histories. Consider these the forerunners of the modern vanity press. People paid to be included in these books. Their version of the family's history got printed. Between faulty memories and an inherent human desire to present one's kin in the best light possible, sins of omission are a definite possibility.

What to do? Confirm birth dates with baptismal certificates, military pension records and Social Security card applications. Use wills, probate records, funeral home records, obituaries and epitaphs to bolster evidence of death dates. Prove a marriage with census records, land transactions, pension papers, death certificates and their progeny's birth certificates.

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Five Generation Chart of Deborah Fern Coggins



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The Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS) was formed in 2001 with 161 members. The main purpose of the Society is to create, foster and maintain interest in genealogical research through the education of people of all ages. The Society will:

- hold classes so people of all ages can learn how to research;
- offer a support system for beginners to help them along the way;
- have our members participate by sharing their knowledge;
- promote speakers that can teach us new methods and ideas; and
- share this information with others through our Quarterly, our monthly Newsletter, and with open seminars.

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