

The Hall Family History Part 4 – The Brothers

At the beginning of the Hall family history, I mentioned that the oldest members of the Hall family that would be discussed were James and his brother Richard. Now that I have shared everything I could find for James, I'll move on to Richard.

Richard married Drusilla Blackwell and according to his obituary, he had nine children. After extensive research, I was able to identify four of their children: Angelica, Mary, Chris, Trenia. Richard first appears on the 1861 census for Colchester which lists Richard, an illegible name (likely Drusilla) and what appears to be the name Angelica. Whether or not this name is actually Angelica, the date is too early for the name to be Mary, Chris or Trenia because they were not born yet. The 1871 Census only lists Richard and his wife Drusilla and their children Mary and Christopher, but no one else is mentioned. The same applies to the 1881 Census, but the 1891 Census lists Trenia with a 'D' next to her name, indicating 'daughter.'

By 1901, Richard and Drusilla's son Christopher had started a family of his own. He is listed with his wife Mary E. (Campbell). This census also lists Christopher's date of birth as February 28, 1867, while Mary's date of birth is listed as February 11, 1871. Christopher Hall passed away on December 17, 1923 in Sandwich at the age of 56. His death record lists his occupation as a 'Night Watchman.' On December 28, 1923, the *Amherstburg Echo* printed his obituary which says "Chris Hall, who was removed to the Sanitarium at Sandwich a few weeks ago by the township, passed away at that institution on Monday evening. Deceased was about 60 years of age and was born and brought up in this township. He was a cousin of Jesse Hall and was married to Mary Campbell, who survives him. They had no family. Mr. Hall moved from this section about twenty years ago and for some years had resided in Detroit, but moved back last spring and has since been in declining health. The funeral was held on Wednesday afternoon

with services in the A.M.E. church at New Canaan and Interment in the cemetery there. Rev. Mr. Fry, of Colchester South, Officiated.”

I'll end the Hall family history with Richard and Drusilla's obituaries. Richard passed away at the age of 87 on April 11, 1907 in New Canaan. His obituary shares several significant details and says “Richard Hall one of the oldest and best known colored men in this township, passed away on Thursday, April 11th aged 87 years 5 months. The deceased was born in North Carolina where at the age of 26, he was married to Drusilla Blackwell, and she survives him. In 1857 they came to Canada remaining in Essex County until 1861 when they moved to Haiti, but lived there only two years, when they decided to return to Canada, settling in Colchester North. Nine children were born to them, only one, a son, is living. There are however two grand children, Mrs. Wm. Holton, of Colchester North and Harold Nolan(?), of Detroit; three nephews, Jesse Hall, Colchester North; William Hall, Jackson, Mich., and James Hall, of Chicago, Ill. The funeral took place on Sunday and was largely attended.” Because of this document, I was able to determine that this Richard is the brother, not the son, of James Hall, in addition to learning the names of Jesse Hall's (potential) brothers and when Richard and Drusilla came to Canada.

Sadly, it was only a few months later that Richard's wife Drusilla passed away on July 5, 1907, in Colchester at the age of 81. Her obituary appeared in the *Amherstburg Echo* on July 12, 1907 and says “Mrs. Richard Hall died at her home in this township Friday last, after a short illness. Her husband died April 11th last. Her maiden name was Drusilla Blackwell, and she was married to the late Mr. Hall in North Carolina, coming to Essex county in 1863. Of a family of nine children, one son survives. The funeral took place Monday.” According to Drusilla's death record, she passed away because of ‘heart failure,’ or some might say a broken heart.

What we publish is not a complete history of any family and is based on the documents that are available. We welcome photos and information to fill in the gaps. See you next week where we will celebrate another amazing family.