

(E-mail letter from Max Hall to Debbie Cloud, November 28, 2002.)

Dear Cousin Debbie Cloud:

We are indeed cousins, and I'm glad to meet you. Happy Thanksgiving Evening! I am Max Hall of Cambridge, Massachusetts, a writer and book editor, and a former newspaperman in Atlanta, New York, and Washington. I was born in Atlanta GA on 16 August 1910 and therefore am 92. My full name is Maxcy Reddick Hall Jr.

My father, Maxcy Reddick Hall Sr., was born in Weston GA on 16 November 1864 and died in Atlanta on 23 December 1939. (Please notice that our name is Maxcy. The spelling "Maxey" is someone's mistake, possibly due to the similarity of a small "e" to a small "c" in handwritten documents. My byline on books and articles is simply Max Hall.)

My father, a civil engineer, was a son of Dr. Nathaniel Barber Hall (1821-1902) and Nancy Ann Boulware Hall (1829-1914). So they were my paternal grandparents. I gather from your e-mail of 21 November to Al Young that they were your great-great-great-grandparents. Right?

Cousin Al tried unsuccessfully to reach me and forwarded your message to Ruth Young Crowson, a cousin of his (and mine) in Austin, Texas, and she forwarded it to me on 23 November.

I'm in an assisted-living community called The Cambridge Homes, but that isn't needed in addressing a letter to me. My e-mail address, of course, is at the top of this letter.

I have a lot of information about Dr. Nathaniel Barber Hall and his wife, Nancy Boulware. Examples are:

---Dr. Hall's "A short hystory of the Hall family" in two versions, one presumably in his own handwriting, the other a copy made by my Uncle Olin (not Orin) with some changes and explanatory additions.

---The Hall Family Tree, prepared under Dr. Hall's direction in 1902, the year of his death.

---Boulware and Barber family trees.

---A report on my visit to the graves of Dr. Nathaniel and Nancy in an abandoned cemetery in an isolated wooded area between the North Georgia towns of Fairmount and Ranger. This expedition took place on 9 January 1987 in the company of my sister Olive Hall Shadgett (1905-1991) and her husband, L. M. Shadgett. My report includes photographs and drawings of the gravestones.

---Dr. Nathaniel's doctoral dissertation of 1846 (handwritten).

---Some genealogical data on various ancestors and descendants of Dr. Nathaniel. My holdings may duplicate some of the information in your possession. If I have things you don't have, I will of course share them, though the family trees are dim and may not reproduce well.

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By the way, I wonder if you've ever been in touch with Russell S. Hall? Very likely you have, but if you have not, I recommend that you do so. He has been working for many years on a history of the Hall family. I shall send him a copy of this letter.

If you wish, I can also provide you with some illuminating correspondence I had with Cousin Russ a few years ago, relating to ancestors of Dr. Hall

(and thus of you and me). Among the interesting stuff, there was information about two men named John and James Barber, who, according to Dr. Nathaniel's "short hystory" (page 4) were half brothers. I notice that, despite being half brothers, BOTH of them were DIRECT ANCESTORS of you and me, a remarkable fact. As I understand it, John and James lived in Northern Ireland and fought as officers in an Irish rebellion (or rebellions) under Robert Emmet in the 1780s or 1790s, and then migrated to America in 1797 (according to Dr. Hall's "short hystory)."

Here's how they relate to us, as I understand it:

John Barber and his wife, Sarah Carmichael, were the parents of Mollie Barber, who married John "Jackey" Hall and was the mother of Dr. Nathaniel Barber Hall. Therefore John Barber was a grandfather of Dr. Nathaniel.

Meanwhile JAMES Barber's daughter Eliza Barber married James Richmond, and THEIR daughter Sarah Richmond married Benjamin Boulware, and THEIR daughter Nancy Ann Boulware married Dr. Nathaniel Barber Hall. If this is correct it means that James Barber was a great-grandfather of Nancy Boulware, I think.

So, presumably, the rebel John Barber was our direct ancestor through Dr. Nathaniel, and the rebel James Barber was our direct ancestor through Dr. Nathaniel's wife, Nancy. Cousin Russ Hall knows a great deal about those relationships and much more.

I remind you that Dr. Nathaniel and Nancy named one of their children "James Richmond Hall." And this may be a convenient place for me to tell you how it happened that they named my father Maxcy Reddick. Dr. Nathaniel served three months as a captain and six as a surgeon in the Georgia State Troops in the CivilWar, as he tells us in the "hystory." He had two army friends whose surnames were Maxcy and Reddick. When my father was born on 16 November 1864, while the war was still going on and the smoke still lingered from the burning of Atlanta, he was greeted with the gift of those two names. And when I came along 46 years later, in 1910, I became Maxcy Reddick Hall Jr.

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Will you tell me something about yourself? Where do you live? May I know your street address and phone number? When and where were you born? Etc. What's with the "Tonycloud" in your e-mail address? Your husband, perhaps. If so, please give him my regards from chilly New England. The only way I know your gender is that Ruth Crowson calls you Debbie. The only document by you that I have seen is signed only "D. Cloud." I take it you are descended from Dr. Nathaniel and Nancy Boulware through their firstborn, Gertrude, who, according to Nathaniel's "short hystory," married R. H. Jones in 1870 and "to them were born six sons and a daughter. They moved to Tex 1887." (I don't know which of those offspring you are descended from.)

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Although I'm going to mail you a facsimile of Dr. Nathaniel's "short hystory," if you want it, I'll tell you now some additional information he gave about his children, so that you can compare it with the list you already have. (Whenever I spell it "hystory" I'm referring to the version that I think is probably in the doctor's handwriting. Uncle Olin's version spells it "history.")

Dr. Hall's "hystory," on page 3, lists the children as Gertrude, Benjamin, James, Maxcy, Metellus, Olin. He adds that three had died--Mary, John, and William. On the Hall Family Tree, Dr. Hall shows the children in this order: Gertrude Jones, Benjamin Mortimer, "Mary," "John," "William," "Infant," James R., Maxcy R., Metellus B., Olin P., "Nannie."

I know by the gravestones that Nannie was Nannie E. Hall, who died on Christmas Day 1905. The family plot in that old cemetery contains a rather high monument with Nathaniel's dates and three smaller stones for the graves of the same Nathaniel, who was born Nov.9, 1821, and died Dec.18, 1902; Nancy Ann, who was born Sept.14, 1829, and died Jan. 28, 1914; and Nannie E., who was born Feb.4, 1873, and died (as said above) on Dec.15, 1905. Thus Nannie is the only one of the children who is buried in this cemetery lot with the parents. All the others must be in graves elsewhere.

Debbie, I would welcome comments and information from you.

Max Hall