

R.154 BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY RUFUS HILL 6/, SON OF WILLIAM
CLANTON HILL 5/ & SARAH BRANCH OF HALIFAX CO., NC.

Entered in April of 2000 by Robert R. Hill of Brandon, FL.

Source: Document provided by Mrs, Barbara P. Smith of
Victoria, Texas.

Note: THis was Henru T. W. Hill 6/ (6th generation), a son
of William Clanton Hill 5/ & Sarah Branch, of Halifax Co.,
NC, and the grandson of William Hill Sr & Charity Lewis of
Bash & Chatham Co., NC. He descends from the 1642 immigranst
into va., named Robert Hill 1/ & wife Mary Webb.

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HENRY R. W. HILL

HILL, Harry R. W., merchant, was born in Halifax county, N.C.
in 1797. His father died when he was five years old, and his
mother remarried and removed to Williamson County, Tenn.,
where his first lessons were learned at an old field school,
where he spent two years.

This meagre and defective schooling was all that the largest
planter and merchant and grand master of the Masons ever
received.

He began business life by keeping store in Franklin. His
employer died in 1818, and young Hill settled the estate so
much to the satisfaction of his heirs that they assisted in
starting him in business for himself.

In 1827 Mr. Hill was married to Margaretta E. McAllister and,
having accumulated a fortune, removed to Nashville, Tenn.,
where he entered into partnership with William Nichols, and
engaged in a large commercial and steamboating business.

In 1832 he removed to New Orleans and engaged in business
with N. J. Dick & Co. In the financial crisis of 1837 the
house became involved, and for the following seven years Mr.
Hill was occupied in settling the country business of the
firm. He received the reward of his labors in seeing the
credit of the house restored and the business of the firm
resumed on its old footing.

In 1842 Mr. Dick retired from business, and the firm became
Hill and McLean. The firm was subsequently seriously
involved, and Mr. Hill released his partner and paid the
indebtedness out of his private fortune, and afterward

conducted the business alone.

His estate was managed with the same ability that stamped his business career. The large plantation was worked by a well-governed, well-cared-for body of slaves numbering 1,000, all managed under a system of the highest culture and improvement.

His name fills a prominent position in the commercial annals of the South, where he was known not only through his business and many philanthropic deeds, but by the active interest he took in the promotion of all public works.

Mr. Hill fell victim to yellow fever when hardly past the prime of manhood, while caring for his slaves who were stricken with the fever.

The press throughout the South paid tributes to his memory. He died at New Orleans, La., Sept. 17, 1853.

End