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Subject: Hall family
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Isabella Ann FORD
1789 - 1824

Isabella Ann FORD was the elder daughter of Isabella ANDREWS and her first husband Henry FORD. She was born in Canada, probably at Niagara around 1789/90.

Her father died on the 3rd Nov 1793 and her mother remarried on the 22nd June 1796 but the family seems to have stayed in Niagara rather than follow her new husband to overseas postings. This stepfather George HILL, attained the rank of Major in the 85th Regt which was stationed in the West Indies from 1802-1808. The family must have eventually joined him there for both teenage girls were married in Jamaica in Sept 1806.

Isabella married Col **Charles William HALL** Esq of Pleasant Prospect pen, Liguanea. In the West Indies, the term 'pen' refers to a farm or plantation. According to the Jamaican Gazette of 1840, Pleasant Prospect was an estate of only 16 acres. It must have been the residential property near Kingston while the family's income came from the larger plantation of 918 acres at Hall's Prospect pen in the Eastern District. The marriage was celebrated on the 13th September 1806 in St Andrews – only 10 days after her younger sister Eliza's marriage to another middle-aged planter, Edward Pinnock WALLEN [1770-1822]

Who was Charles? He was born c 1768, which makes him 38 at the time of his marriage – more than twice his wife's age. He was the eldest son of the Hon Charles HALL of Liquanea [1725-1795], born in Preston to Robert HALL and his 2nd wife Margaret JONES. He was a member of the Legislative Council and custos rotulorum of St Andrews. Charles was the son of his second wife Elizabeth BOONE [m 1760; d

1773] and he is named in the Jamaica Almanac of 1808 in the Civil List as an Attorney at Law admitted to practise at His majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature.

Charles William HALL appears in 1811 owning an estate at Pleasant Prospect pen in the parish of St Andrew where he was a Lt Col of the St Andrews Regt (militia) as well as being a solicitor. He appears in the 1820 Slave Returns acting as the attorney for his brother-in-law Edward Pinnock Wallen (1770-1822) who had returned to England. He later appears as executor and sole surviving trustee. He also acted for the Pinnocks and signed the Slave registers in their absence.

The parish registers show the births of two children before he was married. Their mother was "Lucy Scott – a free woman of colour." They were

- Fanny HALL (aged 5) and
- Alexander HALL (aged 3)

baptised on the 24th Nov 1808. Was this possibly at his new wife's insistence?

Isabella and Charles had eleven children including four sets of twins between 1807 and 1821, but several are presumed to have died young. Not surprising given the unhealthy climate of Jamaica.

Isabella herself died on the 27th of January 1824 at Half Way Tree (now a northern suburb of Kingston). There are several theories about the origin of this name. It may have been just halfway between the two military barracks at Port Henderson and Newcastle, or it may have been the large cotton tree where people rested on their journey from the city to the hills.

A tradition says that during the period of the Commonwealth, a group of Royalists stopped all travellers here and made them drink a toast to the King. The old courthouse there is being restored by the Jamaica Historic Places Trust.

Isabella was only 35 when she died and was buried in the church yard at St Andrews. In her will dated 18th May 1822, she states that "the

two children of Margaret Pearce" are to be made free, raising the speculation that they may also have been her husband's children.

FAMILY

- **Eliza Ann HALL b c 1807/8**
- Charles Henry HALL b 24.4.1809
- Isabella Ann HALL b 24.4.1809
- George James HALL b 17.10.1810
- David Baillie HALL b 20.11.1813
- Mary Christiana HALL b 8.12.1814
- Isabella HALL b 8.12.1814
  - § Octavia HALL b 10 May 1818
  - § Edward HALL b 10 May 1818
  - § Manley Dixon HALL b 17 Sept 1821
  - § William Matthew HALL b 17 Sept 1821

Charles died intestate in Jamaica on the 11th April 1832, aged 64yrs. [PROB 11/1663/503]. However his name still appears in the 1840 Jamaica Almanack at Pleasant Prospect with 16 acres.

Eliza Ann's marriage appears in the St Andrews register for 8 March 1827 but no birth/baptism entry has been found.

The twins Charles and Isabella were both baptised on the 13th Sept 1809 but no further mention of her is made. As one of the second pair of twins born in 1814 (baptised 24th April 1815) was also named Isabella, it is reasonable to assume that she had died before then.

George and David do not appear in Burke's Landed Gentry 1952 (sic) but neither do they appear in the St Andrews burials register up to 1827. However 'David Baillie Hall is mentioned in the will of his grandmother Isabella HILL, signed 24th May 1836. The other Hall grandchildren mentioned are Elizabeth Ann Clarke, Charles Henry Hall, Isabella Sophia Hall, Edward Hall, Manley Dixon Hall & William Matthew Hall.

According to George Mardall, Mary Christiana HALL died on the 28th

Oct 1830 but his source for this information is unknown.

The oldest son, the Rev Charles Henry HALL was a curate at St Andrews in 1849 Jamaica Almanack. In 1878 he appears on the Diocesan Financial Board and on the Diocesan Educational Board, Middlesex and as rector of St Pauls. He is on the Clerical List as rector of Clarendon until 1881. He was not listed as a retired cleric in 1883 although he did not die until 1889.

He married Anne Catherine LITTLEJOHN and had a son Caleb Littlejohn HALL 1838-1899 (accountant with the Colonial Bank and member of the Diocesan Financial Board), who had a son Duncan Hamilton HALL.

Jeanette

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