



ELIZABETH "BETSY" ANN WALTON HALL:

Connection to Sam Houston:

Family history stories indicate that Frank and Betsy Hall were good friends of Sam Houston and that they knew each other in Virginia before they all moved to Texas. Sam Houston was the first President of the Republic of Texas, but Mirabeau B. Lamar was elected as the 2nd president. Sam Houston traveled the territory in 1841 to campaign for the next presidential election. Records of Margaret Houston's travels show that they stayed in Nacogdoches in September of 1841. While they were there, they received word that Sam had been elected for the second time as the President of the Republic of Texas.

It seems to be during this trip that he stayed overnight at the Hall's home in Douglass (14 miles west of Nacogdoches) and slept under a woven coverlet. See the article below for more details. Mrs E. P. Dolan, Jr. mentioned in the article is the paternal great grandmother of DRT-SFA chapter member, Mallory Kay Dolan Walker.

Elizabeth Ann Walton was born in Cumberland County, Virginia on August 25, 1799. Elizabeth left Virginia with her 2 brothers, settling in Morgan County, Alabama. On the 21st of December 1836, Elizabeth married Richard C. Hall in Monroe County, Mississippi.

Their 1st child, Sarah "Sallie" Virginia Hall was born at Aberdeen, Mississippi on July 12, 1838. Richard Hall brought Elizabeth and Sarah to Nacogdoches, Texas in 1840 where he served as Justice of the Peace and Postmaster.

Sallie eventually married Horatio Gates Lane on January 16, 1856 in Cherokee County. H. G. Lane became an attorney, district attorney and judge. See more at: [Horatio Gates Lane: East Texas Teacher, Confederate Captain, and Jurist \(sfasu.edu\)](#)

A second daughter was born, Mary "Polly" Richard Hall at Douglas, Texas during the Republic. Her third husband was Albert Mantooth of Angelina County. **The DRT Chapter in Lufkin is named after her as the Mary Hall Mantooth Chapter.**

In 1847, Richard G. Hall died in Cherokee County, TX. In 1860 Elizabeth moved to Homer, Angelina County, Texas. Elizabeth died October 24, 1884 and is buried at Walker Cemetery at Redland.

Funeral of Elizabeth Ann Walton Hall:

According to Albert Edwin Mantooth, grandson of Elizabeth Ann Walton Hall, his grandmother's request was to be buried at the Walker Cemetery in Redland, Angelina County, Texas. She was born in the Cumberland County of Virginia where the mountains and the red land were a part of her early childhood. Mrs. Hall spent her early married life at Douglass, Texas in Nacogdoches County. The hills and territory around Douglass and Redland reminded her of her former Virginia home.

The funeral was conducted at the church in Homer. Afterwards, the funeral procession went the long distance in buggies and wagons and took about six (6) hours each way. The eighteen (18) miles were very difficult due to the mud and bad roads.

As the funeral procession left the church at Homer, the church bells tolled slowly. When the procession passed through Lufkin on its way to the Walker Cemetery, the church bells rang again at the Lufkin church.

[Sam Houston and the Woven Coverlet \(August 2011\) | Archive - 2011 | Deborah L. Burkett | Local Writers' Columns | Center for Regional Heritage Research | SFASU](#)

Sam Houston and the Woven Coverlet

By Deborah L. Burkett

Today Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin seem more like fictional heroes than real men with everyday needs. As pioneers and their families moved westward basic essentials had to be packed, loaded in trunks. In preparation for the trip, many followed printed guidebooks that told them to leave home with plenty of provisions. As a result, a great deal of quilting and sewing was done.

In finalizing an upcoming book about quilts, I recently came across stories that illustrate how tangible items add to our understanding of history. I also learned there are still discoveries to be made in our local area; topics worthy of study, some forgotten for a time, but all with stories to inspire.

The Vanishing Texana Museum housed in the Jacksonville Public Library is home to four antique quilts and a woven coverlet. As Library Director Barbara Crossman and I examined them, one unexpected and exciting find was a note that said 'Hand-woven coverlet made before 1836 owned by Mrs. Hall, great grandmother of Mrs. E.P. Dolan, Jr. used by Sam Houston while guest in Hall home'.

Initial research suggests it was woven in three segments using a loom and colored with homemade dyes. In the accompanying photograph Barbara Crossman is seen with the coverlet.

Once the age of this textile was established, preservation became a concern. Dr. Perky Beisel at Stephen F. Austin University was contacted and plans will be developed by a committee in Jacksonville. Their goal will be to preserve the items while continuing to document and place them in the context of our country's westward movement and the settling of Cherokee County.

More images and stories that speak to the 'taming' of Texas come from Phyllis and Gene Cottle of Troup.

A trunk and antique quilts are just a few of the treasured family heirlooms belonging to Gene Cottle. In the late 1820s, Stephen Cottle came to the area as part of Stephen F. Austin's second colony, settled near Bastrop and established Cottletown which had a fort, gin and grist mill. Three of the Cottle men perished in battles for Texas independence, one at the Alamo and two at Goliad.

Phyllis Cottle's great-grandfather, Samuel Butman, a sea captain from Maine, made a promise to God during a raging storm. He would give up the sea and devote himself to good works if he and his crew were spared. True to his word, once safely on land Butman boarded a train, headed west and settled Mulberry Canyon in Taylor County, southwest of Abilene.

Butman donated land for the Pioneer Methodist Church and endowed a church encampment, all the while becoming a successful cattle and sheep rancher. He didn't drive his cattle to Ft. Worth; he shipped them by rail! Phyllis Cottle has helped preserve several quilts from that area.

Though typically not thought of as historical records, quilts, trunks and woven coverlets can speak to us, if we only listen.

Barbara Crossman, Jacksonville Librarian is pictured with the Coverlet

