



In-Depth First Settler Profile: ***Samuel Hall (1650) / Elizabeth (Cooke) Hall***

Name: Samuel Hall

Birth: About 1626, Kent, England (*The Halls of New England/Hall*, 1883)

Emigration: To Boston/Roxbury before 1635; to Hartford 1636; to Middletown in 1652.(FFS)

Death: March 14, 1690, Middletown, Conn.(MVR, BCVR)

Occupation & Public Service: "He was a farmer, and a large land-holder. He also had learned his father's trade." (*The Halls of New England/Hall*, 1883) "He was chosen fence viewer, surveyor of highways, grand levy man, and townsman."(FFS)

Marriage: m. Elizabeth Cooke, February 3, 1663, Middletown, Conn. (b. about 1626, Guilford, Conn.; d. about 1693, Guilford, Conn.). She was the daughter of Thomas Cooke & Elizabeth (unknown surname) Cooke of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England, and Guilford, Conn. (*The Halls of New England/Hall*, 1883).

Parents: John Hall, Sr. (1584-1673) & Esther Willicke (1590-1633) of England, Boston, Mass., Hartford, Conn., & Middletown, Conn.

Children (MVR, Land Records, vol. 1, page 9; BCVR):

(1) Samuel Hall, b. February 3, 1663, Middletown, Conn.; d. March 6, 1740, East Middletown (Portland/Chatham), Conn.; m. Sarah Hewsdell, Jan 8, 1691, Middletown, Conn. (? children)

(2) John Hall, b. August 7, 1668, Middletown, Conn.

(3) Thomas Hall, b. August 29, 1671, Middletown, Conn.; d. February 1, 1753, Guilford, Conn., m. Mary Hiland, February 1, 1692, Guilford, Conn. (6 children)

Residence/Property: "... lived on Main Street, later removing to the North Society, now Cromwell." (FFS) "His home lot of five acres was located on the east side of Main street and extended to the river. The Mansion house block occupies a part of the front of this lot on Main street." (*The Halls of New England/Hall*, 1883)

Will: Vol. 1, p. 459 (MAN). (Estate inventory, November 5, 1691: 324-10-06, i.e. 324 pounds)

Burial Location: Unknown, but most likely in Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, Conn., where many of the earliest grave markers do not survive.

Notes:

(SAV): "SAMUEL, Middletown, s. of John of the same, prob. his youngest ch. freem. 1654, d. 14 Mar. 1690, left wid. Elizabeth and three ch. Samuel, b. 3 Feb. 1664; John, 7 Aug. 1668; and Thomas, 29 Aug. 1671. SAMUEL, Taunton, s. prob. of George, had Samuel, b. 11 Dec. 1664; John, 19 Oct. 1666; Nicholas, 28 Oct. 1670; Mary, 3 Oct. 1672; Sarah, 14 Oct. 1674, d. young; Ebenezer, 19 Mar. 1677; Sarah, again, 2 Mar. 1679; and George, 25 Jan. 1681."

(MUH): "Samuel Hall, b. abt. 1626. England, resided for a few years in lower Middletown. In 1657 he purchased of John Wilcox the Joseph Smith and Matthias Treat homesteads in Upper Houses and resided thereon until his death in 1690. He m. 1662, Elizabeth Cooke, dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth

Abbreviation code used in SMFSD biographical sketches and in-depth profiles:

(MVR) Middletown Vital Records (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(BCVR) *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* (original index at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.; printed index available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.; digitized index available on CD-Rom as part of *The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.)

(MLR) *Middletown Land Records* (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(MAN) *Digest of Connecticut Probate Records*, Hartford District (Manwaring, Charles William. *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Originally published 1904-1906; reprinted 1995. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995.)

(CBRMC) *Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, and Many of the Early Settled Families*. Chicago, Ill.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1903.

(MUH) *Middletown Upper Houses* (Adams, Charles C. *Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families*. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908.)

(FFS) Frank Farnsworth Starr ("The Settlers of Mattabeseck 1650-1660," *Middletown Penny Press*, Oct. 11, 1900; also published in the *Middletown Tribune* 250th Anniversary supplement.)

(CAF) *Centennial Address of Rev. David Field*. (Field, David D. *Centennial Address: With Historical Sketches of Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle Haddam, Middletown, and its Parishes*. Middletown, Conn.: W.B. Casey, 1853.)

(GMB) *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633* (Anderson, Robert Charles, FASG. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, Vol. I-III*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996.)

(SAV) *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* (Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on the Basis of Farmer's Register*. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown & Co., 1860-1862.)

(GFHC) *Genealogical & Family History of the State of Connecticut* (Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation*. New York, N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.)

(HMC) *The History of Middlesex County* (Henry Whittemore, ed. *The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885*. New York, N.Y.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884)

(RPCC) *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663* (Adams, Arthur W., ed. *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663*. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1928.)

(HCCM) *Hartford County Court Minutes, 1663-1687* (Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, CG, FASG., ed. *Hartford County, Conn., County Court Minutes, Vol. 3 & 4, 1663-1687, 1697*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2005.)

(NEHGSR) *NEHGS Register (New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-2007.) (Online database available at NewEnglandAncestors.org)

(TAG) *The American Genealogist* (articles by Donald Lines Jacobus, ed., 1922-1971) (*The American Genealogist*. New Haven, Conn.: D.L. Jacobus, 1922-1971)



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of Guilford. Thomas Cooke had come with the Whitfield Company. The widow rem. to Guilford to reside with her son. Deacon Thomas, who d. Feb. 11, 1753, aged 82, having married for his third wife and her second husband Rachel Savage Spinning, dau. of John Savage.”

(The Halls of New England, Genealogical and Biographical, by Rev. David B. Hall, (Albany, N.Y.: Joel Munsell’s & Sons, 1883): “SAMUEL HALL, b. in England, about 1626; d. in Middletown, 1690, about 65 years; m., 1662, Elizabeth, eldest dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth Cooke, of Guilford, Conn. Thomas Cooke came to Guilford with Rev. Henry Whitfield and was one of the signers of the plantation covenant of June 1, 1639, made on the passage from the county of Kent, England, to Guilford. Samuel Hall was made freeman at Middletown in 1654. Had lands recorded June 10, 1655. His home lot of five acres was located on the east side of Main street and extended to the river. The Mansion house block occupies a part of the front of this lot on Main street. He was a farmer, and a large land-holder. He also had learned his father’s trade. He was admitted to the church of Middletown Oct. 19, 1668, also his wife Oct. 29, 1676. After his death she removed to Guilford and lived with her son Thomas. Samuel Hall made his will Feb. 13, 1690, in which he gave most of his estate inventoried at 324 to his sons: Samuel to have the house and barns; John the lot in town; Thomas to have two acres of the home lot; and Samuel and John to have the carpenter’s tools. Children were: 1. Samuel, b. Feb. 3, 1663-4. 2. John, b. Aug. 7, 1668. 3. Thomas, b. Aug. 29, 1671.”

(GFHC): “Samuel, son of John Hall, was born in England, about 1626, died in Middletown in 1690. He was admitted a freeman in 1654 and had lands recorded to him in 1655. His home lot of five acres was on the east side of Main street, extending to the river. The Mansion House block occupies a part of the front of his lot on Main street. He was a farmer and a large land holder, and also learned his father’s trade of carpenter. His will was dated February 13, 1690. He married, in 1662, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Cooke, who came to Guilford, Connecticut, with Whitfield, and was a signer of the plantation covenant June 1, 1639. After her husband’s death Elizabeth removed to Guilford and lived with her son Thomas. Children: Samuel, born February 3, 1663-64; John, born August 7, 1668; Thomas, born August 29, 1671.”

(GFHC): “Samuel Hall, youngest son of John Hall, settled in Cromwell (as now called), and his son Samuel was there a deacon of the church. This son, Samuel, removed to Portland (as now called), and was also there a deacon of the church. The opening of the noted Portland stone quarries, recognized by Middletown vote, as early as 1665, made the Portland branch of the Hall family, seated, consecutive, capable for generations. None more so. Dr. Field, the best historian that ever a county had, says: ‘The first quarry in Portland, was opened where the stone originally hung shelving over the river, or had been broken off from the cliffs and thrown about the banks.’”

For further reading:

The Halls of New England, Genealogical and Biographical, by Rev. David B. Hall, (Albany, N.Y.: Joel Munsell’s & Sons, 1883).

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