



Paisley Family Research and News

Impactful Paisley descendants

A wonderful part of the Paisley Family Association's website [<https://paisleyfamilyassociation.com/>] is the "Notable Relatives" section under the DATABASE tab. In addition to his task of administering the Clan Paisley database on Ancestry, Gary Paisley supplies the short biographies for "Notable Relatives." Over 50 bios provide a quick look at some fascinating men and women. Below is a more in-depth view of one of immigrant William Paisley's great-great-great-grandsons—Jesse Lee Hall.

Jesse Leigh (Lee) Hall

Jesse Lee Hall was born as Jesse *Leigh* Hall to Frances Rankin and James King Hall on 9 Oct 1849 in Lexington, Davidson County, North Carolina. He was the oldest child and would be joined by five brothers. Jesse's maternal grandparents were Polly Mebane Paisley and Jesse C. Rankin. Polly was the daughter of the Rev. William Denny Paisley and Frances Mebane; and the granddaughter of the Revolutionary War patriot Col. John Paisley.

Jesse was too young to join units in the Civil War, 1861-1865, but in 1869 he headed to Texas. He changed the spelling of his middle name to "Lee" and used this as his main name. He first found a job as a school teacher in Grayson County. Lee did not hold the school teacher job for long. He soon became a city marshal in Sherman, a deputy sheriff in Denison, and the sergeant of arms for the Texas Senate. Opportunities for adventures ramped up when Lee took a job with the Texas Rangers.

In August 1876, Lee became the second lieutenant of Leander McNelly's Special Force of Texas Rangers of Nueces Strip. Lee was then posted to the Goliad region, to solve a bank robbery. The robbers had escaped to Mexico, but Hall neutralized a gang of vigilantes and gained the trust of the community. One observer wrote, "Lieutenant Hall had come an entire stranger, had taken in the situation at a glance and applied the remedy which caused the bold bad men to flee to parts unknown."



In October 1876, Lee became the acting commander of the Ranger company. He soon moved the company from the border to Cuero to suppress the Sutton-Taylor Feud. He arrested five of the ringleaders of the Sutton faction and thereby ended “the agony.” The Ranger special forces were reorganized in January 1877 and Lee was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and company commander. In February he divided the command into units of one or two men and scattered them along the border to suppress cattle rustling, cross border raiding fueled by the Diaz revolution in Mexico, and the plundering of King Fisher and his gang.

Somehow, Jesse Lee Hall became acquainted with Elizabeth Cook “Bessie” Weidman, 1600+ miles away in Lebanon Pennsylvania. Bessie was listed with her family in Lebanon in the 1880 census. Lee’s located in the 1880 census is still a mystery. Lee and Bessie were married in her hometown on 25 Nov 1880. She was from a prominent family and Lee was a celebrated Texas Ranger. The wedding details were highlighted in the local newspaper and re-printed in several papers across the country.

The couple settled in Texas, but supposedly Bessie hated the ranger service, and Lee turned his command over to his first lieutenant, T. L. Oglesby. Lee took the job as manager of the Dull Ranch and was involved in the settling of fence cutting troubles. He also served as an agent to the Anadarko Indians, but ended up being charged for embezzlement and making false claims. The lawsuits were dismissed due to a lack of evidence. Lee also had some business interest in San Antonio.

In 1898 with the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, Lee raised two companies for service in the First U.S. Volunteer Infantry regiment. When the regiment was released from service, Lee reentered the army as a 1st Lieutenant and made leader of the Macabebbe Scouts in the Philippine Islands. He received a promotion to captain for conspicuous gallant service at Aringay and Batangas, and was discharged on 6 Oct 1900. Lee ended his career as a security guard for the director of the Giroux Consolidated Mining Company from 1906 through 1907. He was living in San Antonio.

From 1882 to 1890, Bessie gave birth to five girls: Jessie Lee, Sarah Elizabeth, Martha Dorothy, Mary Weidman, and Virginia Derr Hall. Jessie and Sarah were born in Texas; Martha was born in Indian Territory; Mary was born in Texas; and the youngest, Virginia, was born 29 Nov 1890 in Lebanon, PA. In the 1900 census Bessie is listed as living in Pennsylvania, married, head-of-household, and all the girls are living with her. Lee’s location has not been found. Bessie may have gone back home because of Lee’s military service, his trouble with lawsuits, or heavy drinking.

According to the 19th-century Texas Ranger historian, Former Adjutant General Wilburn King, Jesse Lee Hall was “a man of daring and almost reckless physical courage, of fine physique and restless energy.” Jesse Lee Hall died 17 Mar 1911 in Texas and was buried in the National Cemetery at San Antonio. Bessie continued to live in Pennsylvania through 1920 and then was probably living with one of her daughters when she died in 1926 in Fauquier County, Virginia. Bessie was buried with her husband in Texas.



Lee Hall and Bessie Weidman wedding announcement

Greensboro North State (Greensboro, North Carolina)

Thu, Dec 2, 1880 · Page 3

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/63243340/>

From the *Reading Times and Dispatch*, of Nov. 27th, printed at Reading, Pennsylvania, we get the following account of the marriage of Capt J. Lee Hall, formerly of Greensboro, but now of Texas.

Miss Bessie C. Weidman, youngest daughter of Mrs. John Weidman, of Lebanon, was united in wedlock on Thursday evening to Capt J. Lee Hall, of San Antonio, Texas. The ceremony took place in Zion's Lutheran church, at 9 p. m., amid a brilliant assemblage of friends and relatives—Rev. Wm. Rumber, pastor, officiating. The bride, who is a charming brunette, was attired in white satin, trimmed with pearl passementerie. Her husband is a tall, dignified and handsome Texan, and as the twain stood at the altar, they were the cynosure of admiring eyes. The bridesmaids were Miss Elia Livingood, of Reading, Miss Nellie Gloninger, of Lebanon, and Miss Helen Weidman, of Pottsville, in themselves a galaxy of beauty. They were dressed in white lace and muslin. The groomsmen were J. K. Hall, of Greensboro, N. C., brother of the groom; Capt. Wm. A. Thompson, of the 4th Cavalry, U. S. A., of Baltimore, and Casper Bull, from Harrisburg. The gentlemen were in customary black. Ushers, Barge Weldman, of Pottsville; Andrew Gloninger, of Lebanon, and Ode Boyd, of Conwall. The bridal party entered the church in the following order, to the inspiring strains of the wedding march. Ushers, followed by Casper Dull and Miss Livingood, Capt. Thompson and Miss Helen Weldman, James K. Hall and Miss Gloninger, then the bride on the arm of her brother Grant Weldman, Esq., the groom entering from a door near the pulpit. After the wedding the bridal couple and suite were tendered a beautiful reception by the mother of the bride at her residence on South Ninth street. Here were displayed most elegant and costly gifts, the presents of numerous and devoted friends. The happy pair left Lebanon on the 11.49 p. m., train for an extended tour through the South, from whence they will go to their future home in San Antonio, Texas. We cast after their flitting figures the traditional old shoe, and wish them oceans of good luck, long life and prosperity."

Mr Hall and his bride reached Greensboro on Monday evening last, and will remain the guests of Dr. J. K. Hall and his wife, parents of the groom, until their departure for their home in Texas.

Texas Ranger Lee Hall by Chuck Parsons is available at Amazon, book or ebook., c.2020, 432pages, illus, maps, index.

About Parsons's *Texas Ranger Lee Hall*:

Jesse Lee Hall (1849-1911) was one of many young men seeking a new life following the Civil War, when he left

North Carolina to find adventure in Texas. He joined Texas Ranger Special State Troops in 1876. This was the career move that he had needed as he soon found enough action in South Texas.

Hall was involved in arresting King Fisher and his gang, and he (with a small squad) arrested seven of the Sutton faction, effectively ending the bloody Sutton-Taylor Feud. In 1878 Hall took part in the gun battle ending the career of outlaw Sam Bass.

Nearing his fiftieth birthday, Hall hoped to join Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders," but that did not happen. Instead he was posted to the Philippines, where as a commander during the Philippine Insurrection he was so badly injured that he was given a medical discharge. The old warrior died in San Antonio in 1911, loved and respected, having a reputation equaled by few.

"Digging deep into primary sources, Parsons offers his readers a true story of duty, sacrifice, and heartbreak." —Darren L. Ivey, author of *The Ranger Ideal Volume 1* and *Volume 2*.

Sources for Lee Hall article:

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/hall-jesse-leigh>

<https://www.texasranger.org/Hall-of-Fame/Hall-Jesse>

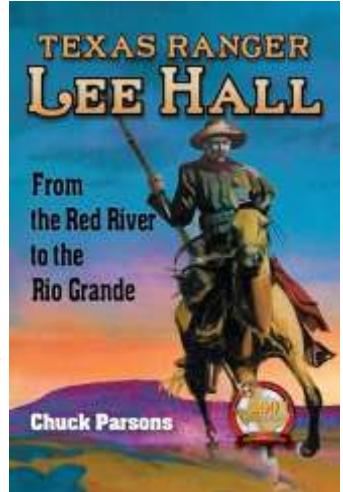
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesse_Lee_Hall

Additional reading on the Texas Rangers can be accessed online with the following free electronic books:

- *A Breed Apart: the History of the Texas Rangers* by Eddie Michel
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Eddie-Michel/publication/320733175_A_Breed_Apart_The_History_of_the_Texas_Rangers/links/59f86f120f7e9b553ec023d8/A-Breed-Apart-The-History-of-the-Texas-Rangers.pdf

- *Texas Rangers: Lives, Legend, and Legacy* by Bob Alexander and Donaly E. Brice, 2017, Univ. of N. Texas Press.
Downloadable file:

<https://dokumen.pub/texas-rangers-lives-legend-and-legacy-157441691x-9781574416916.html>



Interactions with Native Americans

If your ancestors were in America before the 19th century, it is a good possibility somewhere in your tree one will find an interaction with American Indians. Most of the “I had an Indian princess as an ancestor” stories are false, but a little digging may turn up some type of involvement. Of course our best known story is of Deliverance Paine (b.abt.1743-d.1818) being rescued from Indians.

The article on page five of this issue shares a memorable incidence with Wisconsin Indians. An even earlier interaction than Deliverance was recently discovered in early colonial Virginia records.

Robert Peasley, 1702 King William County, Virginia Resident

From a rocky start in 1607, the people in the Colony of Virginia were intent on carving out and taming the wilds of the coastal land in America. They chaffed under rules approved by the royal Governor and the House of Burgesses, in a land that scarcely resembled the civilized culture of England. When colonist wanted reimbursement for tasks assigned, they appealed to the Public Record Office in London. These are some of the interesting requests of 1702 filed by residents of King and Queen County:

To John Allit for watching and looking out to sea as ordered by Lt. Col. Lemuel Mason

To Robert Peasley, interpreter to the Pamunkey and Nanzattice Indians

To Mr. James Minge for laying out the Pamunkey Indian land

To Mr. Robt. Beverley for watching and looking out to seaward on Point Comfort

To John Redwood who asks for 1295 pounds of Tobacco for accommodating Ann Tandy a criminal, until her trial; and 17 ½ pints of Rum for accommodating the guards watching the prisoner.

Source: Colonial Abstracts Vol. VII, 1700-1800, King and Queen County, Virginia: King and Queen. Land Records 1700-1800, Probate Records 1700-1800, Court Records 1700-1800

Robert Peasley was an Indian interpreter – how cool is that! Probably he was living close to the Indian people and had learned some of their language. Most likely he was already trading with them before being named as official interpreter by the Virginia authorities. Who were the native people Robert Peasley knew?

The Nanzattice Indians (Nantaughtacund / Nanzatico) had a village on the Rappahannock River, which Captain John Smith first visited in 1608. The Nanzattice were part of Powhatan’s paramount chiefdom. The community was made up of remnants of earlier tribes that had been displaced by the English settlers. Unfortunately, the Virginia House of Burgesses did not act upon a 1704 complaint from the Nanzattice concerning encroachment of settlers on their enclaves on both sides of the Rappahannock River (Carolina and King George counties). Warriors killed a family. A militia was dispatched. Forty-nine Natives were captured, five hanged and the rest sold into slavery in the West Indies.

The Pamunkey tribe still lives in King William County on the Pamunkey River. They were involved in many early interactions with the English and signed the 1677 treaty with the King of England. Negotiations were constantly needed to push back against the English settlers. So, Robert Peasley’s help would no doubt still be needed in 1702. The Pamunkey Indians are one of 11 recognized tribes in Virginia, and they still pay an annual tribute to the Governor of Virginia.



1926 Ceremony, Pamunkey Indians presenting tribute to Virginia governor. [from the Valentine Museum collection.]

Ninian Paisley and his wife Martha Steig Paisley

This information is from Ancestry records and the book *Steig: A History of Norwegian Ancestry*, by Evelyn Hoff. Onalaska, Wis: Crescent Printing Co, 1982.

Ninian Paisley was born 3 May 1836 in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland to Ninian and Jane Barclay Paisley. Ninian, his parents, and his brother James came to America about 1857 and settled in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Father, Ninian, was born 30 Apr 1799 in Ayrshire and Mother, Jane, was baptized 21 June 1799 in Stevenson, Ayrshire, Scotland.

Martha Fredrickson Steig was born in Biri, Norway on 16 Jan 1846. She and her brother and sister-in-law set sail in June 1866. They landed in Quebec, got a train to Chicago, met a farmer who needed help on his farm, and went to Wisconsin. A description of life comes from a paper written by their 15-year-old granddaughter, Elvera Fischer:

"They, [Martha Steig, her brother and sister-in-law] then, came to La Crosse County and stayed with a second cousin, named Andrew Amundson, who lived in Sour Creek, which is about two miles from Stevenstown. They had stayed here only a few weeks, when Grandmother hired out to Mr. James Barclay (Aunt Lullu Fischer) at Union Mills at two dollars per week. She worked for her all winter, and on May 24, 1867, was married to Ninian Paisley, a cousin of Mr. Barclay.



They bought an eighty acre farm a short distance from Union Mills. Only a small plot of this was tillable and it took years to "grub" and clear the rest. There were very few fences, and it took lots of time and hard labor to cut and lay the old rail fence. They had only a small log house to live in, and everything was very high priced; wheat was three dollars per bushel, flour was fifteen dollars per barrel, tea was two dollars per pound, and they only got four pounds of sugar for one dollar. They always walked to the store after groceries, except when they needed flour.

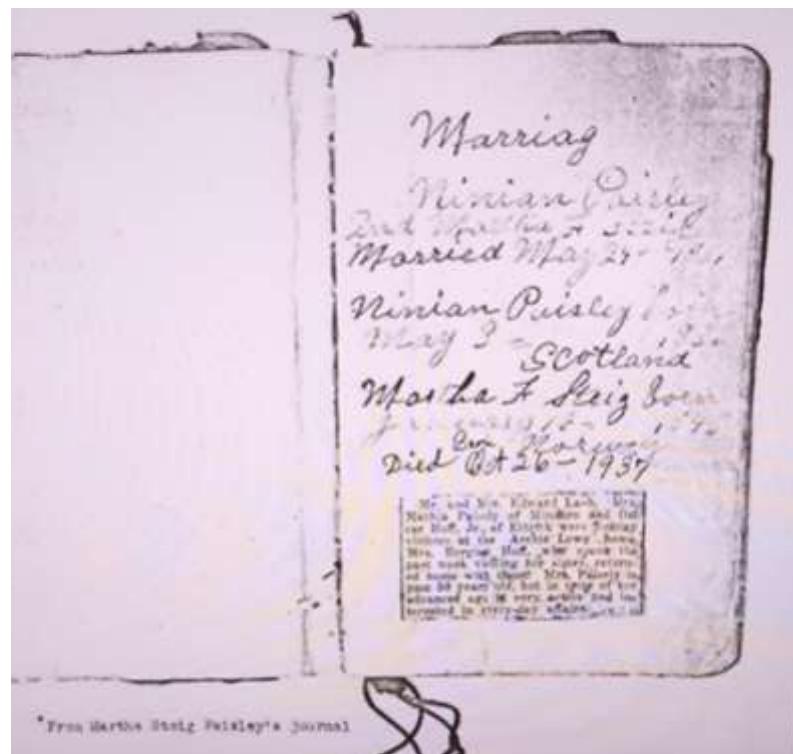
The first Christmas after they were married, they walked to church at Halfway Creek, a distance of five miles, and Grandfather [Ninian Paisley] put a hard earned five dollar gold piece in the collection box. They celebrated the Fourth of July at West Salem, and drove over with oxen.

There were lots of Indians around here then, and although they were not harmful, Grandmother was very scared of them. They would come three or four at a time and demand flour or salt pork, and if you gave one a pan of flour, or a piece of pork, the rest had to have the same amount. A man, named Dan McGivin, created quite a panic among the settlers by giving out a false statement that the Indians were going to massacre everybody near Union Mills. The settlers all congregated there with every weapon they had, but no Indians ever came.

Deer were plentiful and could be seen real often. One came within three rods of the house and Grandfather wanted to shoot it but Grandmother thought it was so pretty, she wouldn't let him. The fishing was wonderful in those days. They never thought of going fishing to catch all they could but just what they would need for a meal. In the evening, Grandmother would send one of the children down to catch enough for breakfast and when they had the required number, they came home. They caught mostly bull heads and trout."

Ninian and Martha had eleven children: Robert, Jenny, Ninian, Bergine, Fred, John, Margaret, Gilbert, William, Mildred, and Bessie. The next generation consisted of 40 grandchildren, 33 of them with the Paisley last name. When Martha died in 1937, she already had 28 great-grandchildren. This family is not yet recorded in our 126,960-member Clan Paisley database.

Martha Steig Paisley kept a Journal. Here she recorded her marriage to Ninian Paisley along with their birth dates and places.



From the Paisley family archives . . .

The late John Porter Paisley (1929-2019) donated copies of old family photographs to the Paisley family archives. One photo was his Great-Aunt Annie Paisley Hendrix. A little research turned up some facts that don't always make it into the family stories.

Mary Ann "Annie" Paisley was born 18 Aug 1863 to James and Minerva Wharton Paisley in Guilford County, NC. Annie married 30 Dec 1884 to James W. Hendrix. From 1886 to 1902, Annie gave birth to five children. Sometime between 1935 and 1940, Annie was moved into the Western North Carolina Insane Asylum in Burke County, NC. [1940 US Census Burke Co NC] This state-run hospital for the mentally ill had opened in 1883. In 1959 it was renamed for a former NC governor and called the Broughton Hospital.



James Hendrix died in 1942. Sometime before Annie died 15 Feb 1951, she was moved into a different facility in Morganton, Burke Co NC. Her obituary noted that she had died in a private sanatorium. The death certificate listed Broadoaks Sanitorium in Morganton. This private hospital was established by doctors from the nearby state run mental institution. They advertised that they were for "*patients with nervous diseases of all kinds, mental diseases, including the insane and mild type, selected congenital defectives, epileptics whose minds have become impaired, the aged with senile degeneration of the brain, needing special care not possible at home, and drug habitués. Violent and noisy, untidy and otherwise disturbed patients are not properly placed in a small institution and will not be received.*"

The death certificate was very detailed about Annie condition. She suffered from manic depression psychosis and had reoccurring attacks since 1920. Her final cause of death was acute cardiac failure at age 87.

Mrs. Hendrix Dies In Sanatorium

Mrs. Mary Annie Hendrix, 88, of 723 Church Street, died at 4 p. m. yesterday in a Morganton sanatorium.

She was the former Mary Annie Paisley. Born near McLeansville, she lived most of her life in Greensboro. She was the widow of James M. Hendrix, Greensboro merchant.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, in which she was active until her illness. Her ancestors were settlers of Guilford County, and Hendrix Street was named for her late husband.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Linda Gorrell and Mrs. Douglas Long, both of Greensboro; two sons, J. Max Hendrix of Raleigh, and Dr. James Paisley Hendrix of Durham; 11 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete but burial will be in Green Hill Cemetery.

UTAH RESEARCH, DNA UPGRADES, AND THE NEXT PFA MEETING

I had the opportunity to go with my husband Jay to Salt Lake City in mid-November. We took five extra days and hiked/visited Zion National Park, Cedar Breaks National Monument, Golden Spike National Monument, Antelope Island State Park, and other assorted trails. Back in Salt Lake City, Jay attended his conference and I walked to the Family Search Library, the premier genealogy library run by the Mormons. I had a list of restricted materials that had to be viewed at the library. I spent two whole days browsing books and got a few good notes, extended one branch of my dad's family tree, but most of my research was a process of elimination!

I did find an interesting book on Ninian Paisley of Scotland and La Crosse Wisconsin and his Norwegian wife Martha Steig. Is this Ayrshire Paisley families connected to our family? We won't know unless someone from this family participates in the Paisley Family Y-DNA Project. A request via Ancestry messaging was sent to this family. Still waiting on a reply.

The DNA Project currently has three Big Y-DNA upgrades in process: one from the USA, one from the UK, and one from Australia. Results and analysis will be given at the next Paisley Family Association meeting in summer 2025. The PFA meeting, luncheon, and program will be held in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in the city of Harrisonburg. Once details are solidified, a notice will be sent.



-Diane Langston

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Websites of interest to the Paisley Family

Paisley Family Association: <https://paisleyfamilyassociation.com/>

Clan Paisley Society: <http://www.paisleyfamilysociety.org.uk/>

Paisley Family Society USA Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Paisley-Family-Society/195070730565352>

Paisley Family DNA Project web page:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/paisley/>

Paisley & Allied Families Autosomal DNA Project :

<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/paisleyallied-autosomal/about>

2025 Calendar Dates:

TBA Paisley Family Assoc annual meeting/program, Harrisonburg VA
SEP 6-7 Middle TN Scottish games, Hendersonville TN