

PO Box 63

17 High Street, Bridgetown, Barbados

5 July 1952

Dear Mr Cook,

I have received your letter of 14 June 1952 with cheque for \$20 enclosed, with thanks.

The searches have been made in the index of baptisms, Marriages, and burials up to and including the year 1825. The Wills have been carried further to 1862. The young man who began to make the searches, left before they were finished, and I have tried to clean up the loose ends and copied them from his ms.

You will now have before you most of the available information up to 1825. From this the dates and other information (in the pedigree you sent me) which is missing can be supplied to a large extent. Unfortunately, the records of the parish of Saint George do not go back earlier than 1806, so details are lacking of the family who lived in the parish during that time. The only other general source of information which has not been tried is that furnished by the records of deeds and other instruments relating to family properties. For some of the early deeds are indexed and all are indexed after 1800. A search through these indexes with subsequent references to the deeds themselves might be done at some cost. I do not know if your client Mr. Wilson is interested to that extent.

Henry Beckles Gall (died 1862) was a prominent Barbadian. He was Official Assignee of the island and the founder of the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance society which is still flourishing. The booklet of the history of the society was published some years ago which gives a good deal of information about Gall including a portrait. I enclose a copy.

He seems to have had earlier connection with British Guiana and I should imagine that he married there. I have some family relationship with the Galls and I always understood that there were several members of the family in two or three generations whose roots were firmly fixed there. HB Gall's son, Frederick Augustus, married Rose Corbin who was my mother's first cousin. Rose Corbin's mother and my mother's father were sister and brother. I knew all of the children of FA Gall and his wife Rose, who were, I think, all born in British Guiana, and they often came to Barbados on visits and frequently stayed in our home. The eldest child was Edith Gall (born 1872) who is still alive and living in Barbados, although she is almost blind and the failing of her sight seems to have rather dulled her intellect. I went to see her last week to gather any family details which your client who like to know I was rather disappointed to find that she knew nothing of her grandmother's family history except that there was a German title somewhere which the family might claim but at great expense. Mrs Edith Gall, my informant, married her cousin, Henry Gall, son of her uncle, Arthur Gall. She gave me some details concerning her uncles and aunts, children of HB Gall and Sarah Hitzler, which I append. Your client's connection with the family seems to have been through the Wilson marriage with Henrietta.

Mrs Gall remembered her Cousins, Robert, Henry, and Etta, who lived at Summit, New Jersey, and visited her when she was in hospital in Philadelphia in 1908 to 1909. Mr Gall's brothers and sisters are dead.

I knew the Waltons from my earliest years. Sir George O'Donnell was son of Dr. George O'Donnell Walton who married Sarah Louise Gall, daughter of H B Gall. That is where the family connection came in. Sir George's wife was Clarice Emily Catford, eldest daughter of JWC Catford he died in 1911. Lady Walton went to live with her daughter in Scotland when Sir George died a year or so ago.

Catherine Elizabeth Chandler had two sons (at least). One was Dr Henry Beckles Chandler, a famous Boston Oculist, who wrote standard textbooks; the other was a prominent man in the steel world, and, I think vice president of the Carnegie Steel Corporation. These two visited Barbados many years ago and I afterwards had some correspondence with Dr. Chandler in Boston. I expect they are both dead.

Edith Gall told me that some dissatisfaction had arisen after the death of HB Gall in the administration of his estate. He left all to his widow-see the will-but the son George made her sell Dalkeith and realise all the estate and go with him to British Columbia, and the other children did not derive any benefit from their father's estate. This may only be legend.

With the information now supplied, I expect you will be able to enlarge the pedigree. I should be glad to have any new pedigree when prepared, for the use of our Society.

I know of no one in Saint Lucia who could continue the search there. You might write to the colonial Secretary, Castries, St Lucia, and ask if he can recommend any one for the purpose.

I remember hearing in my youth that the Benjamin connection in British Guiana was a very valuable one to the Galls. A Benjamin of the last century was said to be a rich and influential merchant and land owner, with connections in America.

It is interesting to note how the family has practically faded out in the male line; whereas in my young days there were any number of Gall men, there is not a single one alive in the British West Indies, and I know of none anywhere. I shall be glad to hear from you again.

Yours sincerely,

Eustace Shilstone

***Names mentioned in this letter:***

David **Benjamin**, Clarice Emily **Catford**, JWC **Catford**, Catherine Elizabeth **Chandler**, Henry Beckles **Chandler**, Rose **Corbin**, Arthur **Gall**, Edith **Gall**, Frederick Augustus **Gall**, George **Gall**, Henry Beckles **Gall**, Sir George **O'Donnell**, Dr. George O'Donnell **Walton**

## GALL FAMILY

EX REL Edith Gall (b. 1872) widow of Henry Gall, late of Island of Grenada, planter.

My parents, Frederick Adolphus **Gall** and Rose (**Corbin**) were married at Saint Leonard's church, Bridgetown, Barbados. I was the eldest child; born in British Guiana, when my father was a sugar planter. He afterwards became a resident magistrate and held other government appointments there. He retired and lived in Barbados, but died in Liverpool, England in 19?? My mother died in England in 1924.

My father was son of Henry Beckles **Gall**. His mother was Miss **Hitzler** of German origin. There was a title in her family. My father said she could claim it, but it cost a lot of money.

I remember some of my aunts and uncles, children of HB **Gall**.

*Sarah Louisa* married Dr George **Walton**. I believe in Canada where he was studying medicine-their two sons George O'Donnell and Henry Beckles for all to, who was a military man.

*Catherine Elizabeth* married- **Chandler**. They lived in USA.

*Arthur* married Ellen **Alexander** and died in Grenada in 1894. Their son Henry was my husband.

*Henrietta* married **Wilson**.

I knew *Robert, Henry and Etta*, their children, who lived in USA.

*Ellen* married **Beckles** in England.

*Julia* married **Radford** and lived in Nottingham, England.

*Clara* married Gordon **Turner**, chairman of the colonial bank and a director of the Bank of England. They had no issue

*George* took his mother to live in British Columbia.

*Evelina Hitzler* married, but I do not remember whom.