

Biographical & Historical Memoirs of North East Arkansas
Goodspeed's

Hall

Wilson Hall is a farmer and blacksmith, and also the proprietor of a cotton-gin and grist-mill in Bolivar Township. He was born in this county on the 6th day of January, 1836, and is the youngest of eight children born to **Richmond and Mary (Cook) Hall**, the former a native of North Carolina, and the latter of Mississippi. They were married in the latter State, and came to what is now Poinsett County, Ark., in 1828, when it was a wilderness of woods and canebrake, and entered a large tract of land, on which they settled and began clearing. **Mr. Hall** took a great interest in the improvement of the county, and was also quite active in politics, and the able manner in which he discharged the onerous duties of the offices to which he was elected won for him the respect and confidence of his fellow-men. He filled the office of county and probate judge for many years, was sheriff of the county for some time also, and in the fall of 1844 was elected to represent his county in the State legislature. His death occurred in 1863, his wife having passed away in 1840; they had been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years. **Wilson Hall**, our subject, has followed in the footsteps of his father, and has been a farmer all his life. His early education was received in the district schools of Poinsett County, but he afterward supplemented this by attending school at Batesville, Ark., where he acquired a good practical education. At the age of twenty-two years he began tilling the soil on his own responsibility, having at that time married **Miss Rebecca G. Bradsher**, a native of Tennessee, and a daughter of **John and Cynthia (Stafford) Bradsher**, of North Carolina, who were early emigrants to this county, the father dying many years ago; the mother is a resident of this county. **Mr. Hall's** first purchase of land was a timber tract consisting of 320 acres, and here he settled in the timber, where he cleared some fifty acres. He now has nearly 100 acres under the plow, and devotes a portion of the remainder to his stock, the raising of which receives much attention. Socially, he is a

member of Lodge No. 154, A. F. S A. M., at Harrisburg, and his political views are in accord with the Democratic party, but he is not a strict partisan. He served a short time during the Rebellion, and from 1862 to 1863 he was a member of **W. G. Gobey's** company. He was called upon to mourn the death of his estimable wife in 1877, she having borne him a family of ten children, eight of whom are living: John Wesley, who is married and resides near his father; Joseph Franklin, also a married man, living near by; Thomas Jefferson, who makes his home with his father; William Price, married and residing in Craighead County; Richmond, who died in 1886, at the age of twenty one years; Larna Ann, died in 1862, at the age of four years; James Henry, Wilson, Mary Cynthia and Nancy Clementine. During Mr. Hall's residence of half a century in this county, he has witnessed almost incredible changes for improvement, and where once was a vast wilderness of woods now can be seen finely cultivated farms and comfortable homes.

John W. Hall, though still comparatively a young man, has become well known in agricultural circles, and is recognized as a careful, energetic farmer, who by his advanced views and progressive habits has done much to improve the farming interests of his section. He was born in Limestone County, Ala., in 1852, and was the only child born to **J. H. and Martha A. (Burt) Hall**, who were also from that county, the father being one of its progressive agriculturists. In 1856 they emigrated to Poinsett County, Ark., and the father's career has been a somewhat checkered one, as he has been engaged in a number of different occupations, and has resided in several different States. After being engaged in land speculations in this county until 1864, he went to Memphis, Tenn., and, although he conducted a farm near there, he made his home in the city. Leaving there in 1868, he removed to Omaha, Neb., where he worked at the carpenter's trade, but shortly after returned to Poinsett County, and opened a farm of 100 acres, on which his son, John W., is now residing. In 1878 he gave up active farm work and removed to the town of Harrisburg, where, two years later, he was elected to the office of county sheriff. In 1889, when the much-talked-of Oklahoma lands were thrown open to the

settlers, **Mr. Hall** removed there, and is now keeping a hotel. His wife died March 12, 1888. **John W. Hall** received a good education in the city of Memphis, but did not engage in farming until the age of eighteen years. He then settled on a woodland farm, which he commenced immediately to improve, and now has 363 acres, with 225 under cultivation, and also operates a horse cotton-gin. He always votes the Democratic ticket, but is not an active politician. He is a member of Lodge No. 184, of the A. F. & A. M., at Harrisburg, and in this order also belongs to the Chapter, No. 76. He was made a Mason on his twenty-first birthday. He also belongs to Lodge No. 77 of the I. O. O. F. He was married in Cross County, November 24, 1887, to **Miss Mamie S. Meacham**, a native of Mississippi, and a daughter of **John and Minta (Pennell) Meacham**, who were also born in that State, but removed to Poinsett County, in 1878, where the father died in 1885. The mother is now residing near Bay Village. **Mr. Hall** and his father have opened up several farms, which they have sold at a good profit, and he (as well as his father) owns a claim in Oklahoma. The latter enlisted in **Capt. Benjamin Harris'** company of infantry, of the Thirteenth Arkansas Regiment, in 1861, becoming first lieutenant of this company. He participated in the battles of Belmont and Shiloh, but returned home after his term of enlistment had expired, at the end of one year. Our subject and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Poinsett County
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2007