

1830s Pioneer Woman - A Probable History of Elizabeth “Betsy” Hall

Wife to Lyhue/Elihu Brown, Hiram Stout and John Walker

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***Preface:** The youngest of five children, I was born in 1945 near Spring Creek south of Ava, to James Orville “Jake” and Kiree (Hartley) Brown. My Brown ancestors are as follows: grandfather -- James Lihu Brown; great-grandfather – Jesse G. Brown; and great-great grandfather, Lyhue (Elihu) Brown. This article, however, focuses on Lyhue’s teenage bride of the 1830s (my great-great grandmother, Elizabeth “Betsy” Hall). Lyhue brought Betsy to the Bryant Creek area of Douglas County, Missouri, south of Vera Cruz, in the 1830s not long after the Delaware and Shawnee Indians vacated the land by treaty and moved further west. Thus Lyhue and Betsy would have been some of the earliest white settlers to come to the south central part of Missouri in which Douglas County is located.*

While Lyhue apparently died at a young age in the 1840s, Betsy lived to see Douglas County go from an undeveloped wilderness to a largely settled agricultural community despite a Civil War that made life miserable for her family and all who were to endure it. As you’ll read, she led a particularly noteworthy existence for 40 years that, heretofore, has been largely ignored.

This *Probable History of Elizabeth “Betsy” Hall* is based on information gathered about Elizabeth and her family coupled with the author’s study of the county’s history throughout the 1800s period in which she lived. End-notes are provided at the end of the article to provide a trail by which readers can assess how the author formed his perception of this obscure pioneer woman, Betsy Hall.⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ For certain, Betsy Hall Brown Stout Walker had to have led an extraordinary life in the newly settled wilderness – Douglas County, Missouri.

Often family researchers develop a special interest in or passion for a particular ancestor. For me, that particular



Probably no photo exists of Betsy
 (The above image is based on that of Betsy’s granddaughter, Martha Frances Brown Squire, published in Laura Lee Moncrief’s 1985 book “Squire-Brown-Burton.” Martha married John Squire, founder of Squires, MO)

ancestor is my great-great grandmother, Elizabeth “Betsy” Hall Brown. No photos or likenesses are known to

exist of Betsy, and, to date, her name has surfaced on but a handful of documents. But, a study of Douglas County turbulent history through the 1800s – decade by decade – can give one a sense of the kind of life she experienced and the events she witnessed during her fifty-some year life.

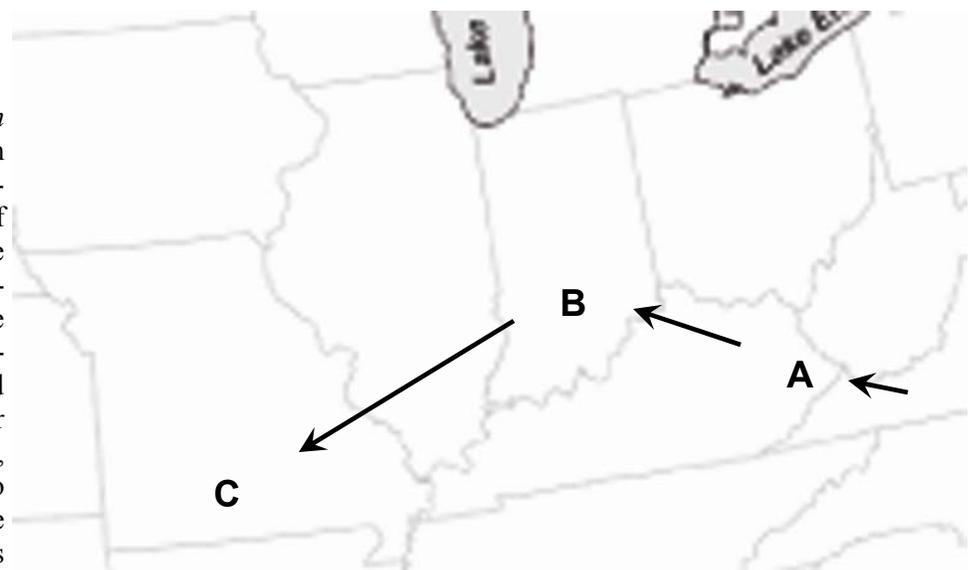
1820s—Life Begins In Kentucky for Betsy

Just as Missouri was gaining statehood in 1821, newly born Elizabeth was nestling in the arms of her mother, Rebecca (Fleetwood) Hall, at their home in the Appalachian Mountains of Floyd County, Kentucky. Her father, Jesse Hall (b. 1786 in North Carolina – d. 1859 in Indiana), was in his late thirties at the time, and he looked on with pride at the birth of his fourth child. (Reportedly, Jesse would eventually sire as many as 25 children).⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾

During the same decade of the 1820s, the land we now know as Douglas County, Missouri, was

Fleetwood Migration — 1810s through 1840s

Betsy’s Probable Route to Douglas County



In her studies of 1840s & 1850s census records for Douglas County, MO., Nancie Todd Weber noted a rather coordinated movement of certain families (e.g., Fleetwood, Todd, Porter, Brown, and Hall) from Floyd County, Kentucky (A), to Monroe-Brown Counties, Indiana (B), and finally to Douglas County, Missouri (C).

1846-47 Survey Map of Area Now Known as "Rippee Access to Bryant Creek"

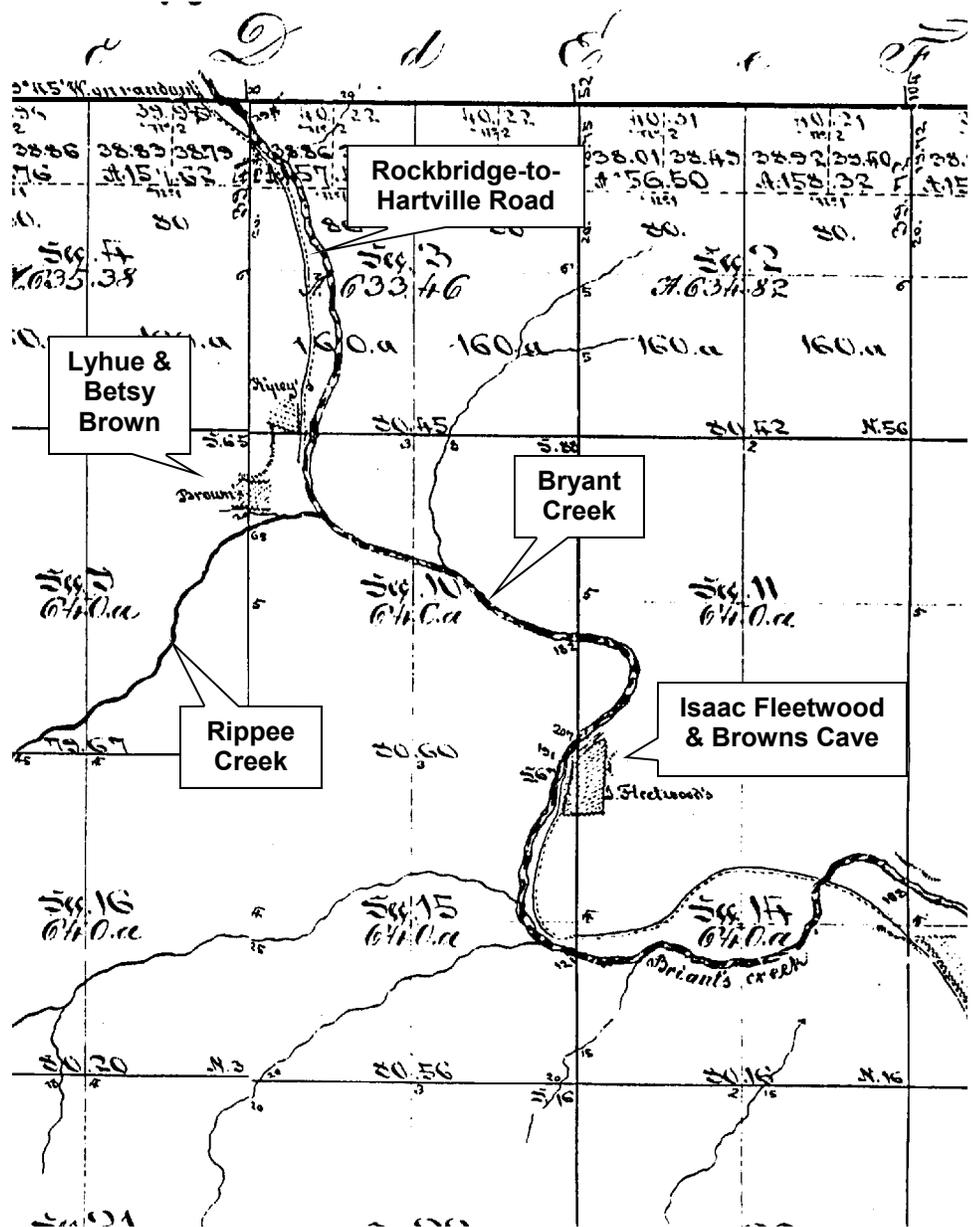
granted by treaty to the Shawnee Tribe of Native Americans after the Osage – centuries long residents -- were moved by the Federal Government to lands further west. The Shawnee were an eastern tribe of people who had adopted many ways of the Europeans, and they struggled to survive in the wilderness of current day Douglas County just as our ancestors did after them.⁽⁵⁾

1830s—Betsy Marries and Migrates to Missouri

Sometime after 1834, young Betsy moved with her parents and several siblings from Floyd County to southern Indiana in the Monroe/Brown Counties area. Betsy's little brother, Alexander, was born in Kentucky in 1834, while little sister, Martha Ann, was born in Indiana in 1838. Thus, sometime in between, the Halls migrated westward to Indiana from Kentucky.⁽⁶⁾

Betsy may never have seen this last little sister--Martha Ann. By the time Martha Ann was born, teenager Betsy was already married to Lyhue/Elihu Brown (another Kentucky-born lad), and was living in southern Missouri. Exactly where Betsy and Lyhue married is still unclear but it may have been in Indiana in 1836 or 1837 followed by an immediate migration to Bryant Creek in Douglas County, Missouri.⁽⁷⁾⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾ When Betsy left her Hall parents to come to Missouri, she likely saw her mother for the last time -- Rebecca Fleetwood Hall died sometime between 1838 and 1840 back in Indiana.

In 1832, the Shawnees were moved from the Douglas County area of Missouri and resettled to the area in northeast Kansas we now know as Shawnee Mission. That vacation of land left the Douglas County area open for white settlers in the mid 1830s. Still the area was quite primitive—no land surveys had been completed, and services of a local government were virtually nonexistent. The area was part of a very large Greene



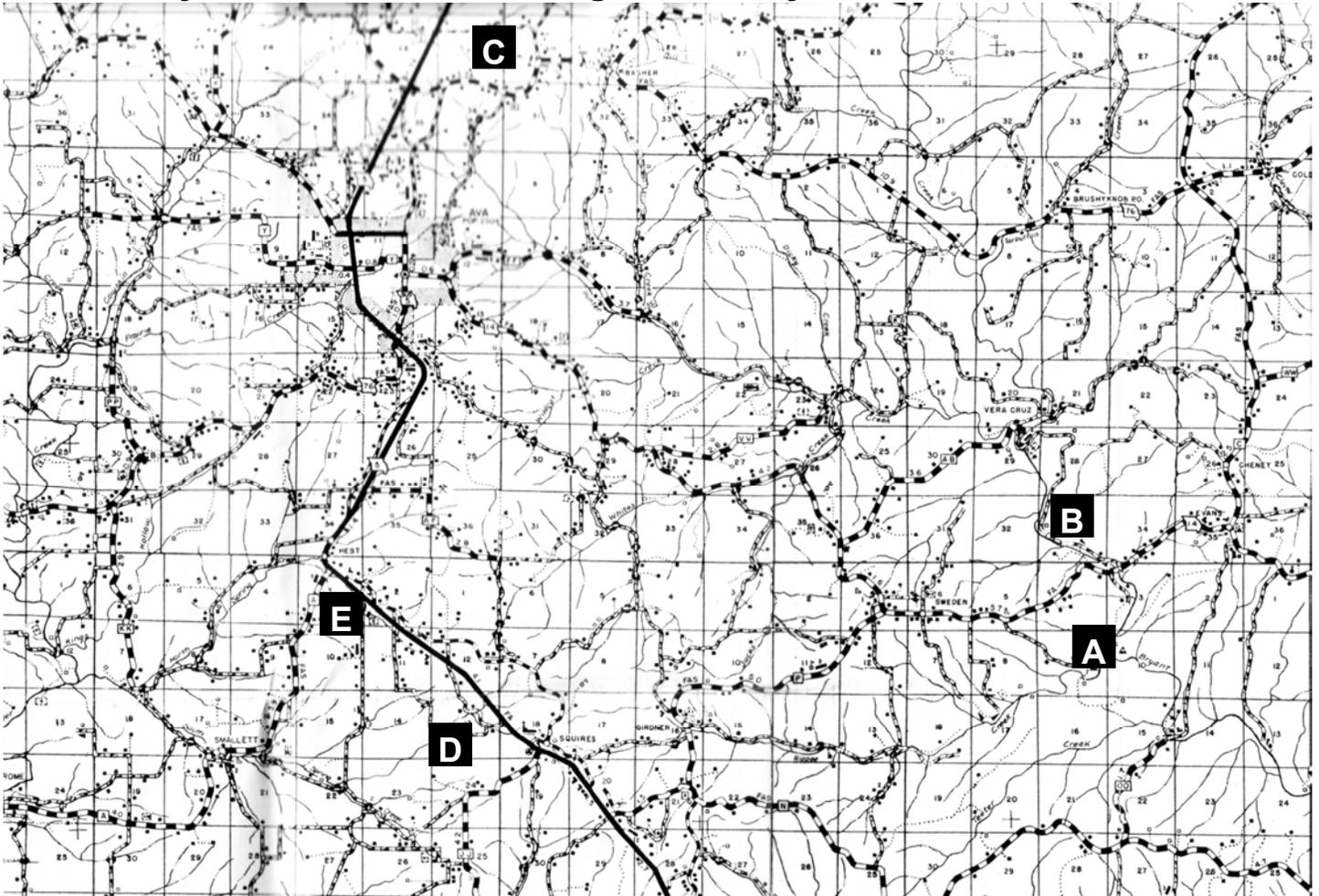
County area with the county seat of Springfield a distant 75 miles away.

So how could a very young couple like Betsy and Lyhue come to a newly opened wilderness area on Bryant Creek? Well, the probable answer is that these two optimistic young pioneers were either traveling with or guided to that area by Betsy's uncles, Isaac and Adam Fleetwood, brothers of Betsy's mother, Rebecca Fleetwood Hall.⁽¹⁰⁾

Just as his father, old Isaac Fleetwood, Sr., surfaced in southern Indi-

ana in the 1820s before a flood of Fleetwoods, Browns, Porters and Halls followed him from Kentucky, the junior Isaac Fleetwood appears to have provided the same service by appearing in Douglas County, Missouri in the mid 1830s.⁽¹¹⁾ Numerous Kentucky/Indiana families followed the younger Isaac's trail into the Douglas County hills. Young Betsy and Lyhue seem to have been part of the first wave of Kentucky to Indiana to Missouri migrants and very likely traveled with a group of migrating

Betsy's Movements in Douglas County, MO — 1840 thru 1870



A—1840-Brown farm at confluence of Bryant and Rippee Creeks. Brown Twp (Sec. 9-10, Twp 25N, Rng 14W).

B—1850-Stout farm at head of Planer Hollow on Bryant McMurtrey Twp (Sec 33, Twp 26N Rng 14W).

C—1860-Hall-Sullivan farms north of present-day Ava. Findley Twp (Sec. 24-25, Twp. 27N, Rng

16N).

D—1870-Walker farms just west of present-day Squires. Spring Creek Twp (Sec. 11 and 24, Twp. 25N, Rng 16W).

E—Bef 1880-Fannon Cemetery, Betsy's probable final resting place —Spring Creek Twp (Sec. 2, Twp. 25N, Rng 16W).

Fleetwoods.

Betsy's first child, George W., was born on Bryant Creek sometime in 1837 or early 1838, starting a prolific Douglas County family that endures there today, almost 170 years later. Every day would have been an adventure for Betsy and her small family – the dangers were many. Having relatives close by made the existence bearable; and because young Betsy had spent her young life in similar places, she was prepared, no doubt.

The weather, they would find, was

much more like their native Kentucky Smoky Mountains than that of the more northern Indiana. But, the gently rolling Bryant Creek with its pristine waters had a few lessons to teach the newcomers. It could turn into a raging torrent of water with little notice. More than a few log cabins were washed away before the new settlers came to understand the Creek's unpredictable ways, and replace them on higher ground.

As the 1830s came to a close, Betsy and Lyhue would no doubt visit with each new family who came down

the trail that followed the Bryant Creek. The travelers would no doubt be seeking guidance as to what lay beyond the bend, and the local residents were hoping to learn news about their relatives back in Kentucky and Indiana. Perhaps it was one of the new migrants, knowing Betsy's family, who would have brought her good news of a new baby sister, Martha Ann, and later, heartbreaking news that her mother, Rebecca (Fleetwood) Hall had died. Mail service was not yet available at this early date.

While Betsy probably had little

concern about the political affairs, the late 1830s was a period when the State Government was trying to form smaller counties by which to serve the influx of new settlers. Sometime in 1839, her Uncle Isaac Fleetwood, a leader in the area, would have learned that the local area had been assigned to a new county of Taney with the county seat at distant Forsyth many days ride to the southwest. This was a forerunner of much change to occur in the impending 1840s.

1840s—A Contrasting Decade of Joy and Tragedy for Betsy

The 1840s was a decade where Betsy enjoyed watching a civilized community (although primitive) form in the Bryant Creek Valley. During that first year, with Betsy carrying her second baby, a census taker came to the Brown's small log cabin and recorded a few facts about the young family. While the man of the house probably pronounced his name in the familiar version, "Lyhue," the census taker, with a well-trained cursive style, wrote down "Elihu" Brown – age between 20 and 30. Using the brief 1840 census form as a guide, the scribe further recorded that the wife of the house was a teenager, and the household had one male child under 5 years old (i.e., young George W. Brown).⁽¹²⁾

In that 1840 census, Betsy's closest neighbors were her Uncle Isaac Fleetwood, and a "free-colored" man by the name of Winkler and his wife. (Note: Betsy's Uncle Adam Fleetwood's wife was a Winkler, and that probably was the tie that brought this Afro-American family into the area with the Fleetwoods).

Later in 1840, after the census taker had left, Betsy and Lyhue were blessed with a second child, Sarah. While that brought more life into the Brown's log cabin, changes on the outside were improving for the young couple and all the valley residents. For example, in 1841, the area was reassigned from Taney County into a smaller county called Ozark; the

county seat was placed at Rockbridge just a few miles downstream from the Brown home. Conveniences not yet available to them in Missouri suddenly came virtually to their doorstep. For example, in 1842, a post office was established at Rockbridge; thus, letters could be sent and received by the valley settlers. Indeed, the area

was gaining some infrastructure. Probably, on a weekly basis, Lyhue and Betsy could leave their cabin for Rockbridge in the early morning, conduct their business, pick up any mail, and be back at the home place to tend to some chores and have their evening meal.

In the same year that the Rock-

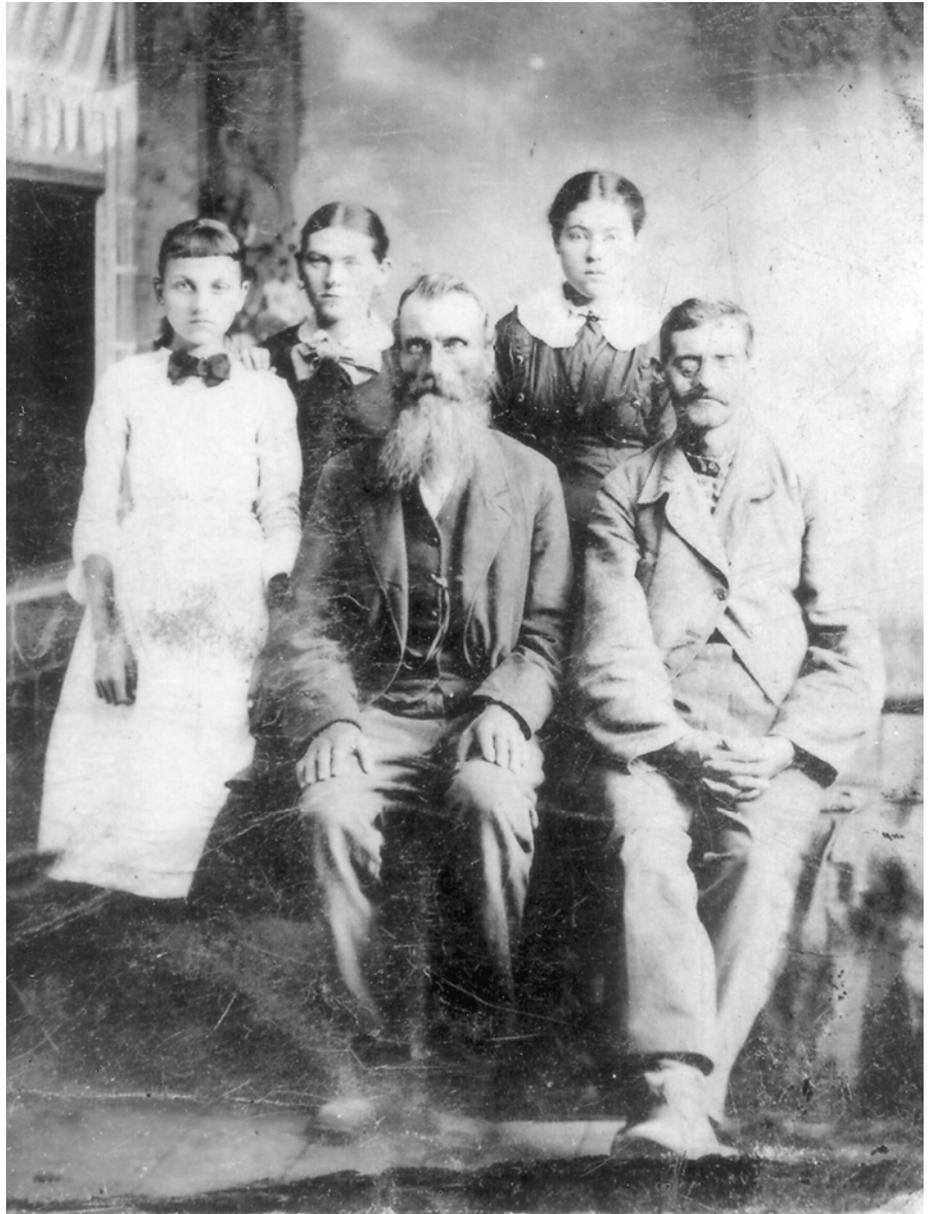


Photo from the early 1880s was provided to the author by Laura Lee Moncrief, Divide, CO. The man on the right is Betsy's youngest son by Lyhue, Isaac Brown. According to Laura, Betsy's granddaughter, Rosa (Brown) Davis, suggested that the man in the middle was probably Elizabeth's oldest son George W. Brown. Based on the ages of Isaac's known children, the girls in dark dresses are probably Isaac's two daughters Mary Elisabeth and Sarah Alice. Whether the girl in white belongs to either Isaac or George W. is yet uncertain.

bridge post office opened—1842—a post office was established at Hartville up north in Wright County; thus the trail that went by the Brown's cabin thereafter became known as the *Rockbridge-Hartville Road*. No doubt Betsy noticed the increase in traffic on the road as she rested between chores while carrying her third child (Jesse G. Brown – the author's great-grandfather) that year (1842).

In 1843, the State Survey Office in St. Louis contracted with professional surveyors and their chain crews to come through southern Missouri laying out the land in one-mile square grids by which subsequent land title could be recorded – every square mile represented 720 acres. Surveyors would have been welcomed visitors to the valley because the settlers understood they were laying out the framework by which they could apply for and obtain legal title to the land each family had staked out for itself.

The particular surveyor contracted for most of Douglas County came through Bryant Creek in the fall and winter months of 1846. He made notes of the local residents he found living on the land. For example, for the Brown's Cave area on the east side of Bryant, the surveyor wrote "Isaac Fleetwood." Further upstream, where Rippee Creek runs into Bryant, the surveyor wrote "Browns." Just to the north of the Browns "Samp Rippy" was denoted for the old pioneer we know as Samp Rippee.

Lyhue and Betsy's nice little piece of bottom land at the confluence of Rippee and Bryant creeks is now owned by the Missouri Conservation Department and set aside for recreational purposes. With this "Rippee Access" now being a public land, the descendants of the Brown couple can walk and camp on the very lands in which Lyhue and Betsy placed their claim.

In the fall of 1846, as the surveying crews dragged their measuring chains over the hills and valleys, Betsy was about to have her fourth child, Isaac. (Note: this last Brown

child would later be known as "Elder" Isaac Brown who, in the late 1880s, became a pioneer General Baptist missionary to the Indian Territory, Oklahoma. Research is currently under way to document his life much as this article attempts to chronicle his mother's life).

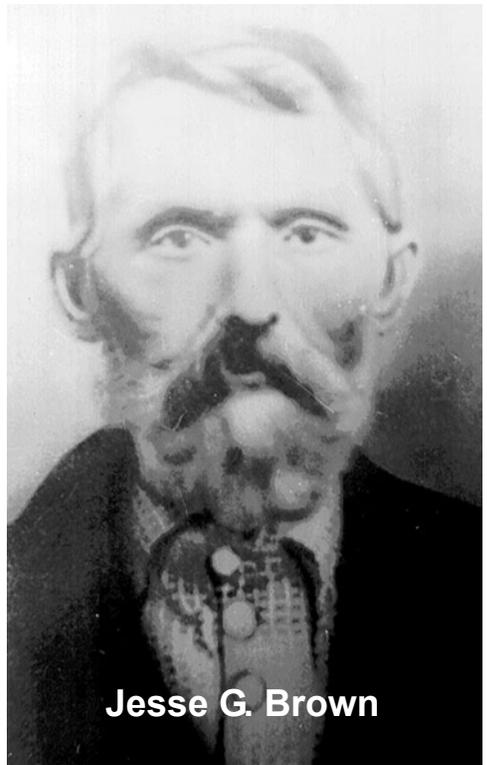
Now, with four children in the cabin and winter approaching, the Browns would have been focusing on making preparations for the long winter ahead. But about that time (1846) or in the following year, the little Brown-Fleetwood colony went through major changes. In November of 1847, Betsy's Uncle Isaac Fleetwood was appointed Sheriff of the still young Ozark County, and his attentions would have been drawn to the county seat at Rockbridge.⁽¹³⁾⁽¹⁴⁾ His relocation there, however, left his land open for settlement and was quickly taken by another Kentucky-Indiana migrant, Thomas S. Brown.⁽¹⁵⁾⁽¹⁶⁾ While Isaac was setting up a store in Rockbridge, Thomas was building a blacksmith shop near what came to be named for him, *Brown's Cave*.

Sometime around 1847 and 1848, tragedy struck Betsy's household — Lyhue died.⁽¹⁷⁾ Today, we still have discovered no clues as to how he died nor where he was laid to rest. Opinions differ as to whether the closest cemeteries – Vera Cruz to the north, and Yates to the south, were yet established in the late 1840s; if established at the time, Lyhue's remains may have been placed in one of them. A third possibility (perhaps the most probable) is that Lyhue was buried on the Brown farm at Rippee Access.

1850s—Betsy's Last Years on Bryant Creek

Migrants from Indiana continued to flow into Bryant Creek in the 1840s and 1850s, and one arrival about the time of Lyhue's death was a widower by the name of Hiram Stout.⁽¹⁸⁾ He brought his family to the east side of Bryant at the mouth of Planer Hollow about three miles north of Betsy's Rippee Access home.⁽¹⁹⁾

Betsy (now age 29 in 1850) and Hiram were married, and when an Ozark County Census taker arrived in 1850, he found the merged Stout-Brown family.⁽²⁰⁾ Betsy had probably



taken her family from Rippee Access to Planer Hollow, as the latter place remained the traditional Hiram Stout place for generations thereafter. With no legal land title possible at that early date, the Brown place at Rippee Access was either abandoned or perhaps passed to a friend or relative.

In 1854, Betsy had her fifth and probably last child – a son with Hiram by the name of James.⁽²¹⁾ But not long after, *Death* again came to Betsy's door and took Hiram away from her sometime in the mid 1850s.⁽²²⁾ Although some of Hiram's children were now adults, Betsy was still faced with raising an even larger family alone.

About that time, Robert Hicks had applied for and established a post office he called Red Bud (later Vera Cruz) across Bryant Creek and a couple of miles north of Betsy Stout's home above Planer Hollow. Did Betsy use that new post office to send word back to her Hall relatives in Brown County, Indiana of her plight?

Very likely Betsy did just that if for no other reason than to report the news from Bryant Creek to her family and relatives in Indiana.

When a major political event occurred in 1857 (i.e., Douglas County was split off from Ozark in late 1857 and nearby Vera Cruz was named the county seat), Betsy may well have had her mind elsewhere. She had most likely been informed that her oldest brother, Isaac Jude Hall, was contemplating a move from Brown County, Indiana, to newly formed Douglas County, Missouri. While the better land had been snapped up on Bryant Creek, thousands of acres of good Federal land existed elsewhere in the county in 1857; in fact, the county was still rather sparsely populated.

Not long after Douglas County was formed in 1857, Isaac Jude Hall left his well established home in Indiana and moved his household and that of his daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and James Sullivan, to an area three miles north of present-day Ava in Findley Township. Federal land records show that Isaac used cash and military warrants to acquire several hundred acres of land in that area. His son-in-law used cash and warrants to acquire adjacent parcels. Most of the land was in Findley with a small portion across the line in neighboring Miller Township. This homestead of Isaac's was located some 15 miles west of the Vera Cruz-Rippee area.

Just as Isaac Hall left Indiana in 1858 never to return, his sister Betsy also moved her family to the new Hall-Sullivan homesteads from the lovely Bryant Creek she saw as a teenage bride twenty years earlier.

1860s – Betsy and Her Family Survive the Civil War

In 1860, the census taker for the three-year-old county of Douglas found all three families living next to each other – our Betsy Stout, Elizabeth & James Sullivan, and Isaac & Jennie Hall.⁽²³⁾ While Betsy no doubt found tremendous support and peace of mind from this new setting away

from what had become a lonely home on Bryant Creek, she may not have realized how significant the change in scenery would be for her and her family until she saw the storm clouds of the Civil War approaching southern Missouri not long thereafter.

The land that Isaac Hall and James Sullivan had chosen for settlement was a long way from the county's main Rockbridge to Hartville Road that generally followed Bryant Creek. Had Betsy stayed on Bryant Creek, either at Rippee Access or on Planer Hollow, she and her family would have been in harm's way as the Civil War started to play out in 1861.

Confederate forces came up that road on at least two occasions while on their way to first Hartville and eventually Springfield. As they came through with cavalry, cannon and foot soldiers, they destroyed the Union fortifications that had been placed at both Rippee and Vera Cruz.⁽²⁴⁾ It's doubtful Betsy and her family, more safely located in Findley Township, could have heard the Confederate cannons as they volleyed their munitions into little Vera Cruz in 1862.

The Stout-Hall-Sullivan homes north of present-day Ava also were some three miles north of the main east-west road that went along Hunter and Prairie Creeks called the *Vera Cruz-Arno Road*. When a large Union army camped on Prairie Creek during the Civil War, however, the families would have been aware of their presence and perhaps even provided some food stuffs. During the war, armies on both sides were often under supplied. Food often came from local farmers (either through purchase or sometimes outright theft).

Regardless of her new more remote home, Betsy would not have had an easy time during the Civil War years; in fact, absolutely no one was safe in Douglas County during that "mean-fought fight" between 1861 and 1865. While the warring armies may have followed the main roads, guerillas and bushwhackers looked for out-of-the-way settlements to raid. If Betsy and her family weren't directly

affected, they certainly knew people who were. Strangers coming toward her home would not have been welcomed as openly as those who passed Betsy's home on Bryant Creek a decade earlier.

Elmo Ingenthron, in his book "Borderland Rebellion," describes a Civil War environment in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas that caused many families to vacate the area for safety reasons.⁽²⁵⁾ Apparently, however, Betsy was able to stay in Douglas County throughout the Civil War. Perhaps one reason was that her brother, Isaac, was too old for service, and he remained at the homestead. Also, the dates of service by her three sons, George, Jesse & Isaac,⁽²⁶⁾ plus that of her niece's husband James Sullivan, were all spaced out to where one or more of the men were at home at all times during the Civil War.

During the Civil War years, Betsy's oldest sons, George and Jesse married and started families of their own. Betsy's youngest son, Isaac, did not marry until just after the Civil War. He married Caroline Morgan, the widow of a Civil War casualty; also, toward the end of the war, Jesse's father-in-law, William Burton, was murdered by bushwhackers in the southern part of the county. So Betsy saw, first hand, the tragic effect of the war on the county in which she had now spent most of her life.

How Betsy and her young son, James Stout, came to leave Findley Township and the Hall-Sullivan homesteads, and make a move about 10 miles straight south into Spring Creek Township is unclear. Federal land records provide some clues that may one day provide a plausible explanation: in 1858, a man by the name of James Stout homesteaded 40 acres right next to 40 acres homesteaded in 1865 by the man who would become Betsy's third husband – John Walker. Also, Betsy's oldest son, George, would later homestead a short distance away from these Stout and Walker parcels in Spring Creek. Betsy's son, Jesse, raised his family on another parcel not far away in Spring Creek

Township.

Regardless of the motive, either during the Civil War or not long thereafter, Betsy moved into Spring Creek township, and Betsy found that the post-war years were not easy ones for either herself or others in the county. Murder and lawlessness would afflict the county for the immediate years after the war. An 1872 issue of the *Springfield Weekly Leader* stated “Douglas has the reputation of being the most intensely radical county in the state and at the same time the most lawless.” This impression of the county was reported after a succession of Douglas County murders the paper had reported in the years after the war as well as new civil war that arose over the placement of the county seat within the county.

A September 1869 item in Springfield’s *Missouri Weekly Patriot* (shown here in a sidebar) carried a horrific item for Betsy’s family — Betsy’s oldest brother, the man who only a decade earlier left the security and prosperity of Indiana for Douglas

County, had been needlessly murdered. His body was taken back north to his Findley Township homestead and placed nearby in what today is called Huffman #2 Cemetery. Betsy, only a few years younger than Isaac, was about to see her last decade on earth.

1870s—Betsy’s Final Chapter

John Walker brought his wife and children from Crittenden County, Kentucky, to Bull Creek in Christian County, Missouri, in the 1850s. But John’s wife, Mary, died around 1860.

After serving in the Civil War for the Union, John sent his son, Archibald, into Douglas County to “scout out and homestead land.” The land chosen was just west of present-day Squires in Spring Creek Township.⁽²⁷⁾ ⁽²⁸⁾ Betsy’s two oldest sons, George and Jesse G., had their families on land in the same general area around Squires near the Walkers. This is probably how John Walker and Betsy Hall came to know each other.

When the 1870 census taker traveled through Spring Creek Township, he found George W. Brown, his wife, Mary F. (Sloan), and three young children in one household. Two families away, he found Jesse Brown, his wife, Mary A. (Burton), and three young children.⁽²⁹⁾

Not far away from her two oldest sons was our Betsy Hall, now 49 years old. The census taker found her married to and living with 60-year old John Walker, and their household contained assorted family members: besides John and Betsy, there were four of John’s children and one of his grandchildren; Betsy’s son by Hiram Stout, 16-year old James; and Betsy’s 28 year-old daughter Sarah A. Brown Stotts, and her young child. Just a few households away were the Walker son, Archibald, his wife Minerva (Hughes) and four young children. All totaled, the four related Brown-Walker households contained 26 people.

But, apparently Betsy did not live to see the 1880 census taker. According to the Walker family history,

Betsy died before 1880.⁽³⁰⁾ Her husband, John Walker, had remarried by the time of the 1880 census.⁽³¹⁾ John Walker died in 1883 and is buried in Fannon Cemetery near Spring Creek where Betsy’s remains probably rest in an unmarked grave.

Betsy Hall’s Legend

After reflecting on Betsy Hall’s story, one cannot deny that she was truly one of Douglas County’s first pioneers. She came to Bryant Creek when it was a remote and untamed portion of Greene County, and she was present as the area was transferred first to Taney County, then to Ozark County, and finally Douglas County in 1857. She survived the Civil War, and she probably served many a meal to local citizens discussing and arguing about the future of the county during its most tumultuous time.

Even in her last days, she no doubt heard discussions around her dinner table about lawlessness that eventually led to the formation of vigilante and then Baldknobber groups in the decade after her death. One of her Walker stepsons, David, eventually became leader of the Christian County Baldknobbers, a position that would eventually end his life and that of a son at the end of a hangman’s noose.

Betsy Hall saw first hand and survived the first 40 years of the county’s white settler days. At their 100-year celebration in 1957, the citizens of Douglas County held a pageant in which some of the play’s characters represented old settlers of the county. Betsy’s second husband, Hiram Stout, was depicted in the play, along with Betsy’s Bryant Creek neighbor, Samp Rippee.⁽³²⁾

Understandably, neither Lyhue Brown nor Isaac Hall made the play’s list of characters because they did not live long enough in the county to be widely remembered; however, if the county should choose to have a pageant for the 150th celebration in 2007, then surely a part should be reserved for Betsy Hall Brown, the pioneer woman who lived through the

Missouri Weekly Patriot *Springfield, MO (Sept 1869)*

“DOUGLAS COUNTY: Another murder in Douglas County! In a private note from Capt. Samuel Turner of Arno, he furnishes us the following particulars of murder committed in that county, on the 6th inst. ‘We have had another murder committed on Spring Creek on Monday, 6th, by James J. Wilson—the same who killed Orville R. Lyons some weeks since. It appears that Wilson was at the house of a widow woman, and that after dark, Isaac Hall, an old citizen and a man of good circumstances, rode up near the house, dismounted, tied his horse, and walked up near the house. Wilson shot him with a revolver without speaking to him, causing instant death. Wilson left immediately and up to this time has not been heard of.’”



The author, Kenneth W. Brown, with Isaac Hall descendant, Helen Whannel of W. Des Moines, Iowa, at Isaac Hall's grave in Huffman #2 Cemetery north of Ava.

county's most volatile and formative years – the 1830s through the 1870s. During that period she was instrumental in the sustenance of three families who remain strong in the county today: the Browns, the Stouts and the Walkers.

She came to Bryant Creek with her new husband almost 170 years ago when it was a wilderness that required extraordinary skills just to survive. She did survive when others around her did not; and for long periods, she provided for herself and her children as a single parent. She had to have been a very strong woman, and her genes survive in numerous Douglas Countians today.

Betsy's Descendants Living in Douglas County Today

Several great-great grandchildren of Elizabeth "Betsy" Hall Brown either now live or have lived in Douglas County in recent years – Roger Brown, Ava; Tom Brown, Arden; Sharlene Brown, Ava; Gene Davis, Nixa; Herman Davis, Ozark; Iris Ann Brown Durham, Ava; Wilma Davis Flynn, Gentry; Geraldine Davis Hailey, Ava; and Glen Dale & Ronnie Hartley, Ava.

Endnotes to "Probable History of Betsy Hall"

- (1) In the early 1980s, an elderly Jesse Hall descendant, Mrs. Barbara Gross, tried to list Jesse's 25 children for Hall family researchers. In her imperfect list, Mrs. Gross referred to Elizabeth twice — as "Betty Hall Brown" and "Betsy Hall Stout." Local Hall researchers often refer to Elizabeth as just "Betsy Hall," and this author has chosen to use that name by which to remember her in this article.
- (2) In her 1985 family book, "Squire-Brown-Burton," Laura Lee Moncrief listed Elizabeth's maiden name as "Hail" instead of "Hall." She based this on a transcription of a 1909 newspaper obituary of Elizabeth's son, "Elder" Isaac Brown. Currently, Laura (who now lives in Divide, Colorado) and the author of this article are collaborating to gain more insight into this discrepancy and to learn more about the Squire-Brown-Burton families in general.
- (3) Reeves and Reeves "Jesse Hall – Family Study No. 92," published by the Brown County, IN Genealogical Society, 1998.
- (4) Barbara Gross interview (See endnote 1 above)
- (5) Chapman, Carl & Eleanor, "Indians and Archeology in Missouri," published by University of Missouri Press, 1964.
- (6) Reeves and Reeves "Jesse Hall – Family Study No. 92," published by the Brown County, IN Genealogical Society, 1998.
- (7) In the 1980s, family genealogist and author of the book "Squire-Brown-Burton", Laura Lee Moncrief, searched diligently throughout Kentucky for a record of Betsy's and Lyhue's marriage but could find none.
- (8) Indiana State Library Genealogy Division, "Indiana Marriages Through 1850" lists a March 25, 1837, marriage in Monroe Co. between an Elizabeth Hall and an Elisha (not Elihu) Brown. Brown County was later split off from Monroe.
- (9) Genealogy educator, Melba Rector, Springfield, MO., told the author that early marriage records can be problematic especially as related to remote wilderness families or families in migration. For example, a marriage, "in the eyes of God," may have been performed by an itinerant preacher in a place or at a time totally different from that legally recorded in a court house many months later and even in a different state. The case of Elizabeth Hall and Lyhue Brown has all the symptoms of being a possible case of this.
- (10) Weber, Nancie Todd — article on the Fleetwood family in "Douglas County History & Families 1857-1995." published by the Douglas County Historical Society, 1996.
- (11) Weber, Nancie Todd, "1840s Taney County families." published by Mrs. Weber in 1994.
- (12) 1840 Federal Census for Taney County (MO).
- (13) "Early Ozark County officeholders," reprinted in the December 1998 issue of the Journal of the Douglas County Historical & Genealogical Society.
- (14) Weber, Nancie Todd — article on the Fleetwood family in "Douglas County History & Families 1857-1995." published by the Douglas County Historical Society, 1996.
- (15) Brown, Cinita Davis — article on Thomas S. Brown in "Douglas County History & Families 1857-1995." published by the Douglas County Historical Society, 1996.
- (16) Did Thomas S. Brown simply take over Isaac's land or was it passed to him by Isaac? Anecdotal evidence courtesy of noted Douglas County historian, Cinita (Davis) Brown suggests that in fact there may have been a family relationship between Thomas and the Fleetwoods that led to this transfer of the untitled land.
- (17) Moncrief, Laura Lee, "Squire-Brown-Burton" published by Laura in 1985.
- (18) Collins, Linda — article on the Stout family "Douglas County History & Families 1857-1995." published by the Douglas County Historical Society, 1996.
- (19) Identification of the Hiram Stout place was provided to the author by a Hiram Stout descendant, Melba Medlock Bolinger, Springfield, MO.
- (20) 1850 Federal Census for Ozark County MO
- (21) This child was living with Betsy both in 1860 and 1870, and is presumed to be her child by Hiram.
- (22) Collins, Linda — article on the Stout family in "Douglas County History & Families 1857-1995." published by the Douglas County Historical Society, 1996.
- (23) 1860 Federal Census for Douglas County, MO
- (24) Vineyard, Jack, "Battle of Clark's Mill," published by the author in 1995.
- (25) Ingenthron, Elmo "Borderland Rebellion" published by Ozark Mountaineer in 1980.
- (26) Laura Lee Moncrief provided a complete listing of the dates of service for Elizabeth's three sons in her 1985 family history titled "Squire-Brown-Burton."
- (27) Spurlock, Randy — article on the John Walker Family in "Douglas County History & Families 1857-1995." published by the Douglas County Historical Society, 1996.
- (28) The community of Squires was founded by John Squire, husband of Jesse G. Brown's daughter, Martha Brown Squire.
- (29) 1870 Federal Census for Douglas County, MO
- (30) Spurlock, Randy — article on the John Walker Family in "Douglas County History & Families 1857-1995." published by the Douglas County Historical Society, 1996.
- (31) 1880 Federal Census for Douglas County, MO
- (32) Booklet entitled "Centennial and Fair Program" which was prepared in 1957 for the Douglas County Centennial that was celebrated September 5—7, 1957.