

ROBERT DOUGLAS HALL 1923 - 1999

Robert Douglas (Doug) Hall always knew he came from United Empire Loyalist stock but it wasn't until he moved to Calgary that he seriously investigated his lineage.

One of his Loyalist ancestors was William Buell Sr. who with his parents Timothy and Mercy Buell and four younger brothers, crossed into Canada before the American Revolution started. Timothy, who had been educated in the Church of England (possibly as a member of the clergy) had been imprisoned by the Americans at Albany in 1774 for his British leanings. After eight weeks he managed to escape and with his family reached Canada. Although too old to serve in the army himself, he recruited for the British cause. His son William founded the City of Brockville and was editor of the first newspaper, the Brockville Examiner. He gifted the town with four acres of land which he envisioned as a town square similar to those he had known in New England. Today there is a church on each corner of this charming park. The square is graced by a fine statue of its donor.

William Buell Sr. was a member of the Queen's Loyal Rangers and carried dispatches, serving under General Burgoyne at Quebec in 1777. After the war he was granted land along the St. Lawrence River. He then served as Mayor of Brockville and was three times elected to the Legislature of Upper Canada. He was a reformer but not a revolutionary. His son William followed his father's conservative example. Both believed that government should be modified but never overthrown. William Sr. also maintained membership in the militia and during the War of 1812 was awarded "a medal with hasp" following the Battle of Chrysler's Farm in 1813.



William Buell Jr. - by Frederick W. Lock
c 1860 - Brockville Museum



Edith Reay Hall

William Buell's daughter Phoebe married Stephen Richards, whose parents were Loyalists too. Their son William Buell Richards became the first Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and was knighted in 1877. His brother, the Honourable Albert Richards was a celebrated lawyer and Member of Parliament for Niagara, as well as one of the early Governors General of British Columbia.

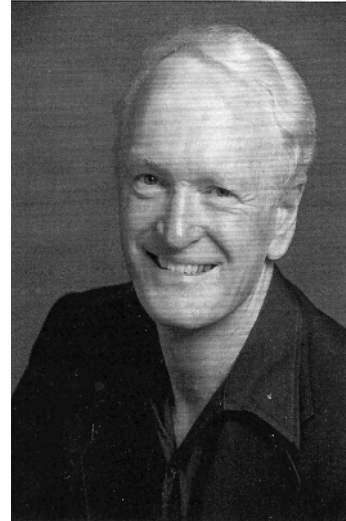
However from then on, it is through the female line that the Loyalist lineage descends from William Buell. His daughter Phoebe Buell Richards, whose family was also Loyalist, her daughter Sarah Richards Sippell, her daughter Helen Sippell, and her daughter Edith Reay Hall who was Douglas' mother. Robert Douglas Hall was born in Camrose Alberta. His father was a banker and been transferred from Montreal to Calgary in 1916. Doug served in the Canadian Army from 1943-45 and graduated as an Electrical Engineer from the University of Calgary in 1948. The following week he married Dorothy Patterson and then embarked on an interesting and varied career. After working for three years with Ontario Hydro he

returned to the West where he worked for eighteen years as Utility Director for city of Lethbridge. In 1969 he went to Ottawa to work at the National Energy Board, and by virtue of his work there became a Petroleum Economist.

In 1974 (because of his experience) he was hired by the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission (set up by Peter Lougheed) where he worked for ten years to exercise Alberta's rights over the province's oil royalties. When that organization dissolved he and his former chairman formed a consulting company.

He was always active in community affairs. He served on the first senate of the University of Lethbridge. He was active in both the Southminster and McKillop United Churches in the city. He often served as a judge at School Science Fairs in both Calgary and Ottawa. He was Provincial Vice President of the Engineering Institute of Canada. Doug Hall was President of the Calgary Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada in the early 1990's.

Doug and Dorothy had four children - three daughters and one son. He died in Calgary January 1999. He was a wonderful, compassionate human being.



Robert Douglas Hall

There is a large picture of William Buell hanging in the Brockville Museum. It bears a remarkable resemblance to Doug. Both were outstanding multi-talented, generous men.

Although William Buell and Robert Douglas Hall were separated by six generations, both men were equally known for their fine qualities – a credit to their Loyalist ancestors.

Source: Dorothy Hall, Calgary Branch, UELAC



Oxendon Villa was Edith Reay's girlhood home in Lachine QC (now part of Montreal) where the Buell cousins from Brockville were frequent guests.