

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Marseillaise Rich-Hall**

Ms. Hall comes from a long line of strong and courageous women originally from the Carolina's. Her father's family, the Hollimans were cotton farmers in Fort Bend County by 1822, before Stephen F. Austin arrived with the "300" settlers. Because of her ancestral history, Marcie is a member of the Daughters of the Texas Republic.

Born in 1922 on a ranch in Brazoria County, Marcie loved to dance and ride horses. She and her sister were good enough to ride in the Fort Bend rodeo, as well as both becoming "Ranch Girls", traveling to rodeos around the country with Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. Being tall and beautiful, she was selected as Miss Texas and did some photograph modeling in New York City for the Ford Agency and John Robert Powers.

During WW II, Marcie went to work for General Somervell at the Pentagon. After the war, she moved back to Texas and worked as an executive secretary at Tennessee Gas Transmission Co (Tenneco) until she married and had a family.

Marcie served as Vice Chair of the Fort Bend Historical Commission for almost 30 years and was involved in many other organizations in the county.

25 Pages

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Marseillaise Rich Hall died on December 8, 2009. Her obituary may be found at:

http://www.garmanycarden.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=924285&fh_id=13280

Interview Summary

People (in order mentioned in interview)

Bettye Anhauser – Richmond historian
 Gene Autry – singing cowboy & actor
 Lucille Birdwell – aunt
 Wincie Campbell – Friend
 Dr. Castellaw – first veterinarian hired by State of Texas to work on the prison farms to care for the cattle
 Everett Coburn – manager of Madison Square Garden in New York
 Mary Ann Crowell – friend
 Judy Darst – friend
 Captain Flanagan – Head of prison in Sugar Land
 Ralph Graham – Tenneco VP of oil & gas
 Cynthia Ann Hall – daughter
 Hulan Hall – spouse
 Bryant W. Holliman – 2nd great grandfather
 Edifa Ellisor Holliman – 2nd great grandmother
 Mahalia Roxanna Holliman – great grandmother
 Coryne Castellaw Howard – mother
 John Charles Howard – brother
 Marianne Howard – sister
 Marshall “Cap” Howard – father
 Marshall Howard, Jr – brother
 Cynthia Ann Parker – white girl captured and raised as an Indian
 Mary Peareson – friend
 Jane McMeans – Sugar Land historian
 Ranch Girls – young girls from good families who rode the rodeo circuit around the country.

Anita Darst Robinson – dance teacher
 Roy Rogers – singing cowboy & actor
 Blondell Scott – relative
 Gardiner Simon – worked for Tenneco
 Mary Wagster – 4th great grandmother
 Tita Walker – friend
 Mary Ann Staines – Friend
 Billie Wendt – friend
 Kinchen Davis – Husband’s coworker
 Rebel Wharton – maternal ancestor

Places / Businesses

Booth
 Brazoria County, Texas
 Daughters of the Republic of Texas
 Fort Bend Historical Commission
 Fort Bend Museum
 Fulshear Foster
 Hollywood, California
 Houston, Texas
 Humble Oil Co (Exxon)
 Ideal Café in downtown Richmond
 Museum of Southern History
 Pentagon, Virginia
 New York
 Richmond Elementary & High School
 Richmond Garden Club
 Richmond Rotary Club
 Richmond, Texas
 St. John Methodist Church
 Sedgwick, Texas

Sugar Land, Texas

Tennessee Gas Transmission Co (Tenneco)

Thompson

WW II & Nuremberg trial

Events

A member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Marcie has a long line of ancestors who resided in Texas by 1822.

She was an accomplished dancer, model and rodeo rider traveling around the country with Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. While in New York City, she was a photographer's model for the

Ford and John Powers agencies.

During WW II, Marcie worked at the Pentagon. After the war, she moved back to Houston and became an executive secretary for a VP at Tenneco. After a few years, she married and had a daughter.

Marcie stayed busy with many organizations in Fort Bend, some for more than 30 years.

Marcie shares numerous stories of her ancestors, especially some very strong and courageous women.