

George Hall 1901



GEO. HALL, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.

Born to Franklin and Elya Jane (Sharp) Hall of Kentucky near Indianapolis, IN on March 12, 1840. George was a lawyer in the town of Trenton and resided with his wife Rachael at 405 W. 14th St. in that city. During the war he served in Co. B 19 IN Inf. He was a member of Post # 72 in Trenton. He died on June 7, 1924 of arterio sclerosis and was buried in the IOOF cemetery.

From the 1925
Department of Missouri
Encampment Book:

Past Department Chaplain
B.F. Warner, of Post 72,
presented the Memorial
on the death of Past
Department Commander
George Hall:

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE HALL – A strong pillar beneath the temple of the G.A.R. has given way. A strong personage within its ranks has bidden adieu to all earthly associations and comrades are left with saddened hearts and tearful eyes.

George Hall was born in Hamilton County, Indiana, near Indianapolis, March 10, 1840, where he grew to manhood. At the age of 19 he entered Danville Academy, but when in 1861 the Civil War broke it was not for one of his

temperament to remain neutral or inactive. After two years in the academy he returned to his home and enlisted in the service of his country, serving in Co. A, 19th Ind. Volunteers. His service was that of guard duty in front of the Custer Lee Mansion, Washington, D.C., which is now the Arlington Cemetery. On account of physical disability he was mustered out of service in 1862 at Washington, D.C. In August of that same year he again enlisted, doing service in Co. B, 79th Indiana Inf., in which he served until the close of the war in 1865.

His life was not a life of idleness or inactivity. His regiment served in the following engagements: Perryville, Kentucky; Stone River, Chickamauga, Resacca, Kingston, New Hope Church, Pine Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Marietta, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Love Joy Station, Franklin and Nashville.

There were three events that took place that practically closed the war: the victory at Nashville, the surrender of Jackson, and the surrender of Lee. With the close of the war came the return of the battle scarred veterans. Among them was Comrade George Hall. He received his discharge at Nashville in June, 1865. Returning to Indianapolis he entered a law office as a student, and after completing his course was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the State.

Comrade Hall was a charter member of the Thomas Post of Indianapolis, the first to be organized within the State of Indiana, and the second to be organized within the Nation [not according to the boys at Justi Camp in Cape Girardeau, MO – editor]. In 1867 he came west to Springfield, Missouri. Later he came to Trenton, Missouri, where he spent the remainder of his life.

He was married to Miss Rachel A. Smith, April 15, 1869. Mrs. Hall was the daughter of a pioneer Methodist preacher and a cousin to the late Bishop Charles W. Smith, who died in St. Louis a few years ago. She was Department President of the Woman's Relief Corps in 1894-95. Four children came to bless their home: Homer, who practices law in St. Louis; Frank, who practices law in California; Hallie, the wife of Prof. E.M. Violette, so long associated with the Kirksville Normal, and Byrd M., who so tenderly cared for her father and now lives with her mother in the home at Trenton.

The health of Comrade Hall gradually failed from the time when he was thrown to the pavement by an auto truck. For a time he attended to office duties, but it was not long until this must cease. He sometimes longed for another visit to the dear office. This longing was promptly met.

The end was not unexpected. All could read the signs so clearly marked were they. On the 7th day of June, 1924, he closed his eyes in sleep to wake no more on earth.

Comrade Hall was a patriotic man. Copperhead and pacifist were classes that met with no sympathy or encouragement from him. His patriotism followed him after he received his discharge. Through the years of a busy life and down

to the last he loved his country and would have given his all for its defense. He was raised to fight if necessary. The Nation's need was his opportunity. "Not counting his life dear to him" he threw himself into the thick of the fight ; he met the charge of the enemy, and while many went down in death he was spared to a life of honor and trust. Returning to his home from scenes of bloody strivings it was to resume a life of peaceful citizenship. Under all stable government there are certain fundamental laws that call for the cooperation of all lovers of high ideals. When these ideals were being put to the test it was not Comrade Hall to disappoint a trust.

He was interested in every enterprise that was for the betterment of the community in which he lived, particularly the church and the school. He was a willing contributor to the building of churches of all denominations. He was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was a delegate to the General Conference in 1884. He was a member of the Board of Regents of the Kirksville Normal School for twelve years.

In 1880 Comrade Hall was a delegate to the Republican National Convention and was one of the Old Guard of 306 who voted consistently for the renomination of General Grant for the third term.

The same elements of character by which he was actuated in life were the characterizing principles in his practice of law. With the understanding that law was designed for the protection and welfare of the people, he did not stoop to the degrading allowances of some of the legal profession.

His home life was ideal. Of this too much cannot be said and more might well be said if time and space would permit.

There came a time when the Department Encampment sought for a leader. Comrade Hall was not hiding like Saul of old, nor was he tall like Saul, but modestly sitting in the midst of his comrades and tall in the sense of a sturdy manhood, his comrades sought him and elected him as Department Commander in 1901. No criticism passes the lips of his comrades in arms, and while he is no longer with us in the flesh, he still exists as a memory and will continue to do so as long as there are those remaining who knew him.

On motion the Memorial was adopted and ordered entered in full in the Journal of the Encampment. The comrades stood and Acting Bugler Webster sounded Taps.