

Albert G. Hall (- 22 Mar 1914)

The Washington Post, September 20, 1912, p. 2

Twin Brothers Aged 81

G.A. and A.G. Hall, Long Prominent Here, Celebrate Anniversary

G. Alfred Hall and Albert G. Hall, twin brothers, yesterday celebrated their eighty-first birthday anniversary at the home of the former, 1216 Sixteenth street northwest. Born at Vassalboro, Me., the brothers came to Washington when 18 years old, and in 1849 secured positions as telegraph operators, the telegraph then being but five years old.

G.A. Hall, who left telegraphy for politics, flashed the first message announcing the nomination of Lincoln at Chicago, where he was a delegate. For many years he was connected with the Postoffice Department.

A.G. Hall, after many years in business, was elected collector for the District in 1867. Both brothers are Masons, G.A. Hall having taken the thirty-third degree and served as master of Federal Lodge, No. 1, is the oldest past master in the District.

The Washington Post, October 20, 1912, p. E8

Twins, 81 Years Old, Cast First Presidential Vote This Year

Hall Brothers, Ardent Republicans, and Favor Taft –

Veterans in Masonry – Albert G. Was Witness of Lincoln’s Assassination.

Both Had Acted as Escort to Martyred Executive

Albert G. Hall, who with his twin brother, G. Alfred Hall, celebrated his eighty-first birthday last month, will cast his first ballot for presidential electors in November, he announced yesterday. The Hall brothers, who are the oldest telegraph operators living in the District of Columbia, and the oldest members of the local Masonic fraternity as well, have been visiting their sister, Mrs. R.B. Donaldson, at 1716 Sixteenth street northwest, since September 19 last, when they met here to celebrate together the passing of the eighty-first milestone of their lives. Mrs. Donaldson, the widow of Past Grand Master R.B. Donaldson, so well known to the Masonic circles here, is in her eighty-third year. They are the only three “children” in the family.

When asked to what political faith he belonged, Albert G. Declared he was a “red-hot” Republican, and would cast his first ballot for William Howard Taft. G. Alfred said he also was an “old-line” Republican, though he never yet had cast a vote in a presidential election. According to the brothers, one of the greatest honors which has come to them in their long lives, was when as marshals they formed part of the escort of President Lincoln, riding on either side of his carriage from Willard’s Hotel to the Capitol and back during the inauguration ceremonies.

Delegate to Lincoln Convention

“I was a delegate from the District of Columbia to the Republican convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln,” said G. Alfred, “and sent over the telegraph wire the first news of Lincoln’s nomination received in Washington. I had formerly been an operator in Washington from 1848 to 1852, and I made friends with the operator. There was only one in those days at the convention hall. I had written out my message in the morning, leaving the name of the candidate and the number of the ballot blank. When on the third ballot, I saw how the States were swinging in line for Lincoln I filled in the

blanks, and handed my message to the operator an hour before the vote was actually completed. I believe that was the first "scoop" ever printed by a Washington paper."

Albert G., who was a resident of Washington for 65 years, was in Ford's Theater the night President Lincoln was assassinated, and saw Booth leap from the President's box after the murder.

"It took some courage to be a Republican in Washington then," he said. "I was the first Republican ever elected to the city council. That was in 1866, and I was the only member of that party out of 21."

Albert G. Hall is the oldest past master of the oldest Masonic Lodge, the Federal, in the District. He was deputy grand master from 1862 to 1863, which makes him the oldest member in the District of the grand lodge. He is also the oldest Scottish Rite Mason in Washington.

Albert G. Hall resides in Washington with his sister, Mrs. Donaldson, while G. Alfred makes his home with a daughter on a farm near Doylestown, Pa.

The Washington Post, September 20, 1913, p. 4

Birthday Of Aged Twins

Albert G. and G. Alfred Hall Celebrate Their Eighty-Second Anniversary

Albert G. and G. Alfred Hall, octogenarian twins, celebrated their eighty-second birthday anniversary yesterday at the latter's home, 1216 Avenue of the Presidents. The celebration was in the nature of an informal reception to many old friends and a general discussion of old times.

The twins are probably the oldest telegraph operators in the country. G.A. Hall sent out the first flash of the nomination of Abraham Lincoln in 1864. Albert G. Hall's home is in Doylestown, Pa.

Hall. On Sunday, March 22, 1914, Albert G. Hall in the eighty third year of his age. Funeral from the residence of his sister, 1216 16th street northwest, Tuesday, March 24, at 2 p.m.

The Evening Star, March 24, 1914, p. 7

Albert G. Hall Dead; A Twin, 81 Years Old

Had Resided in Washington the Greater Part of His Life

Albert G. Hall, a resident of this city during nearly the entire eighty one years of his life, died Sunday at the residence of his sister, Mrs. R.B. Donaldson, 1216 16th street northwest. Funeral services were held this afternoon under the auspices of Federal Lodge No. 1, F.A.A.M., of which he was a member.

Mr. Hall was a veteran of the civil war. He was a twin, and he and his brother, G. Alfred Hall, who lives in this city, were said to be among the oldest twins in this country. About a year ago Mr. Hall moved to Doylestown, Pa. He came to this city a few days ago on a visit and while here became ill, dying after an illness of but three days. Outside of his residence in Pennsylvania, he spent practically his entire life here, being a member of the city council.

In addition to those already named, four sisters survive him: Mrs. Edward E. Hoes of Doylestown, Pa.; Mrs. Edward Nye of Rochester, N.Y.; Miss Alice I. Hall of Portland, Me. And Mrs. M. Hall Lewis of Fort Houston, Tex.