

## Harry Orville Hall

(21 Nov 1846 – 2 Nov 1929)

---

**Hall, Harry Orville.** Friday, November 1, 1929, at 8:05 a.m., at the Home for Incurables, Harry Orville, husband of the late Emma Bassett Hall, in the 83rd year of his age. Remains are resting at the funeral parlor of Charles S. Zurhorst, 301 East Capitol st. Funeral services at the Metropolitan Methodist Church, Four-and-a-half and C sts. n.w., Monday, November 4, at 3 p.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

**Hall, Harry Orville.** The District of Columbia Society, Sons of the American Revolution announce with regret, the death of Harry Orville Hall on Friday, November 1, 1929.

Col. Alonso Gray, Pres.

Seymour McConnell, Sec.

*The Evening Star, November 3, 1929, p. 18*

### **Former Medical Library Head Dies**

#### **Harry O. Hall, Once Active in Civic and Church Circles, Was Long Ill**

Harry Orville Hall, for 45 years in charge of the reading room of the Medical Library, Surgeon General's Office, United States Army, died at the Home for Incurables Friday after a long illness. He would have been 83 years old, November 21. Mr. Hall was retired from Government service in 1922.

Mr. Hall was a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, the Sons of the American Revolution and of Lafayette Lodge of Masons. He also was one of the oldest members of the Metropolitan Methodist Church, where he served on the official board for many years and was active in the Sunday school, having organized the Sunday school work carried on among the Chinese by that church.

Born in Canada of American parentage, Mr. Hall spent his early life in Michigan, and came to this city in 1867. He was employed for a while in the Government Printing Office, and later ran a newspaper in Stuart, Iowa. Coming back to this city, in 1875 Mr. Hall took charge of the reading room at the Library.

He is survived by several nieces and nephews. A daughter, Miss Ethelwyn Bassett Hall, who was active here in the Daughters of the American Revolution, died several years ago.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Metropolitan Methodist Church Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery, with Masonic rites at the grave by the LaFayette Lodge of Masons.

*The Evening Star, November 4, 1929, p. 2*

### **H.O. Hall Funeral Rites This Afternoon**

#### **Army Medical Librarian Half Century to Be Buried in Congressional Cemetery**

Funeral services for Henry Orville Hall, 82 years old, chief librarian of the Medical Library reading room, surgeon general's office, United States Army, for nearly a half century, who died at the Home of Incurables Friday will be held at the Metropolitan Methodist Church at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery, with Masonic rites at the grave.

Mr. Hall entered the service of the Government Printing Office about 1867, later abandoning this position to assume the editorship of a newspaper in Stuart, Iowa. Returning to this city in 1875, Mr. Hall was appointed chief librarian of the Medical Library reading room. He retired from this office in 1922.

*The Evening Star, July 8, 1920, p. 9*

### **Married Fifty Years, D.C. Couple Celebrate**

#### **Mr. and Mrs. Harry O. Hall Receive Gifts From Friends at Willson Apartments**

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Orville Hall celebrated their golden wedding on July 1, having been married on July 1, 1869. Owing to the illness of Mrs. Hall, who has been an invalid during the greater part of her life, they spent the day quietly at their home at the Willson apartments. A number of friends called at the Hall home during the day and many testimonials in gold were received from various parts of the country.

Mrs. Hall is a native of Washington, being the daughter of Robert T. Bassett, also born in Washington, who was for about fifty years connected with the coast and geodetic survey, and Miss Susan Demarest of Portsmouth, Va. Mrs. Hall is the granddaughter of Simeon Bassett, who built the house at the corner of 2d and East Capitol streets in 1814, where Mrs. Hall was born. Mrs. Hall is a member of John Hall Chapter, D.A.R. of which her daughter, Ethelwyn Bassett-Hall, is founder and regent. Mr. and Mrs. Hall were married by the Rev. John Chesster in the old Metropolitan Presbyterian Church on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Hall came to Washington in November, 1867, from Lansing, Mich., to accept a place in the government printing office, for which he had been recommended by Ben Perley Poore. During the eight-hour strike in Chicago Mr. Hall was a reporter on the Chicago Tribune. One month after their marriage, Mr. Hall resigned and they removed to Iowa, where Mr. Hall founded and edited the first newspaper in Stuart,, which is still published. Owing to the hardships and sturdy life of that then pioneer country in that early day, Mrs Hall's health broke down and they returned to Washington.

Mr. Hall has been continuously employed in the library of the surgeon general's office, War department, for forty-four years, and for twenty-eight years has been in charge of the reading room of that library.

Mr. Hall is a collateral descendent of Gov. Lyman Hall of Georgia, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He is a member of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Sons of the American Revolution, Masonic Veterans' Association, for fifty years a member of Lafayette Lodge, F.A.A.M., a life member of the Washington Y.M.C.A. He is one of the original charter members of Metropolitan M.E. Church. Mr. and Mrs. Hall's ancestors, the Bassetts and Halls lived as near neighbors in Connecticut more than 280 years ago.