

STORY OF "MURRAY HALL" TOLD BY HER ADOPTED DAUGHTER.

Woman Who Masqueraded as a Man for More Than Forty Years Was Buried Yesterday—Other Similar Cases in History.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, Jan. 19.—Under cover of darkness, and when it was believed its removal would be unnoticed, a coffin containing the body of Murray Hamilton Hall, a woman who had successfully masqueraded as a man for more than forty years, was removed from No. 145 Sixth avenue last night to an undertaking establishment.

From there it was taken to Mount Olivet Cemetery this morning.

Hall, who had worn none other than men's clothes, so far as the recollection of her oldest friends runneth back, was fully dressed in the garments of her true sex. The chief mourner at the cemetery was Minnie, the adopted daughter of the dead woman.

Minnie said that she who posed as "Mr." Hall was married twenty-five years ago by the Reverend Doctor Deems in the Presbyterian Church in Lower Sixth avenue to Celia F. Lowe, who, as Mrs. Hall, died on July 7, 1888.

It was left to the adopted daughter to tell of this marriage, for there was no one in the neighborhood who could tell when or where the ceremony was performed.

Minnie, who is a handsome woman, about 25 years old, says the ceremony was performed on a Christmas eve. She could not tell the exact year.

Hall prepared a will two or three months ago, in which she made her adopted daughter Minnie the sole legatee and executrix. The real estate consists of four or five lots in Westchester County, the employment agency at No. 145 Sixth avenue and some money in bank.

Was a Factor in Politics.

Murray Hall became a factor in politics more than twenty years ago, and was a member of the Tammany Hall General Committee in the Fifth Assembly District until about three years ago, when her activity ceased and she was dropped. Her first appearance in politics was as an active worker in the County Democracy.

In the garb of a man, her sex unsuspected, Murray Hall had a peculiar faculty for obtaining votes. Her waistcoat pocket was always filled with cigars, which were liberally distributed where they would do the most good.

Where Hall came from no one knew. She once said:

"I came here as a lad from Scotland, and was a drug clerk for awhile. Then in 1848 some fellows took me out to California, where I stayed two years."

In the fight between Tammany, the County Democracy and the Republicans, Hall could control votes when others could not get them. Then overtures were made by Tammany, and Hall went over to that organization, voting the Tammany ticket every year until 1900, when ill health prevented her going to the polls.

Some Previous Masquerades.

Apropos of the discovery that Murray Hall was in reality a woman, many interesting and historic cases of similar masquerades are recalled. In the last few years such cases have not been rare, and in history there are many famous instances of such deception as that practiced by the "Little Old Man."

One of the most notable disguises of sex on record was that of the Chevalier d'Eon, who masqueraded as a woman while acting as diplomatic agent of Louis XV to the court of the Empress of Russia. He was born in Tonnerre, France, in 1732, and died in 1800.

"Pope Joan," who is commonly spoken of as an English girl, was credited with masquerading as a man so successfully that she wandered to many lands and was never detected. There is a story, now generally discredited, that she became a Pope under the title of John VIII.

There lived twenty years ago in Hungary an officer named Felix Francoine, who was one of the most valorous captains in the army. Her sex was not discovered until after her death.

Fisherman and Twice Married.

In Brittany a few years ago there lived an old fisherman, who for fifty years followed the sea. She was not like the women celebrated in the song of "The Three Fishermen," for she did not stay home to weep.

She was so successful with the nets that she amassed a fortune, and at her death left considerable property, twelve fishing smacks, and a snug sum in the Bank of France.

She had been twice married, and left to her wife a good share of this world's goods. Catherine Coombs now lives in West Ham Poorhouse, London, at the age of 65. She had for forty-three years passed as Charles Wilson, and had earned a good living as a mural painter and decorator.

She was especially proud of her handiwork, as shown in the decorations of the cabins of the vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Line. No new craft, which went into the service, was considered complete without having decorations painted by "Charles Wilson."

She was in the employ of the company regularly for seventeen years, and so much confidence had her employers in her business ability that they frequently asked her to undertake important negotiations for them.

She was injured by a fall, and, being unable to follow her trade, was obliged to go to an institution.

There died in England a few years ago a woman who reached the hale old age of 102. The last forty years of her stay on earth she lived under a masculine name. She was of a rubicund visage and portly men, and for seventeen years kept a tavern renowned for the strength of its ale.

Master of an Almshouse.

One of the masters of an English almshouse was a woman, who for eighteen years donned man's attire. Her identity was revealed through a man who was brought to the institution, and who hailed her as his long-lost wife.

Mlle. Laure Bernard, for several years the principal of a school for the cure of stammering, lived in the Department of Basses-Alpes, in France. She appeared in masculine attire in 1894, and married a young woman who had been one of her pupils. She made application to have the record of her birth changed.

Mrs. Pietro Loganani worked for more than a year in the coal mines at Hazleton. She was injured in an explosion, and the surgeons discovered that she was not a man.

In order to obtain the wages of a man, a young woman disguised herself in male attire several years ago and worked for many years as a cashier in a Cleveland, O., book store.

There are several instances in recent years where men have sought employment as cooks in the dress of women.

A man who called himself Christina Beccens worked as a cook for ten years in the kitchens of New York households and earned especial commendations for culinary skill and neatness.

He would not have been discovered in his deception had he not indulged in a drunken spree in the course of which he neglected to shave for several days.

Among other cases of masquerading which have attracted attention in this city was that of "Bessie" Finggold, who changed from feminine to male attire and took a wife, thenceforth assuming the name of Max.