

# KNOWN AS A MAN FOR SIXTY YEARS, SHE DIED A WOMAN.

ASTOUNDING LIFE HISTORY OF MURRAY HALL, THE SIXTH AVENUE EMPLOYMENT AGENT.

**"Murray H. Hall" Had Two Wives, Drank with the Boys, Was Sporty, but Kept Her Secret to the End, Death Alone Revealing It.**



Flirting with Girls Calling at Her Employment Agency One of Her Delights, and She Thought Tammany Should Rule City.

Coroner Zucca will hold an inquest to-day on the body of Murray Hall and will then decide officially as to the sex of the deceased.

Murray Hall lived for thirty years as a man, voted the Democratic ticket in the Fifth Assembly District, was a member of the Iroquois Club, had been wedded to two wives, was known as an all-around sport, had been arrested for intoxication and had whipped a policeman, took an active interest in politics and made money as a professional bondsman.

Every politician on the lower west side knew him as a good fellow who liked to buy drinks for his friends of either sex, who was willing to fight even if he weighed but 115 pounds; was an ardent Democrat and an active worker for Tammany Hall. Not one of his friends and neighbors doubted that he was a man. His voice was deep and his walk and actions masculine, though his face was devoid of whiskers.

Dr. William C. Gallagher, of 202 West Twelfth street, who treated Hall in his last illness, which resulted in death Wednesday night, treated his patient as a man and did not discover that he was a woman until after the patient was dead.

Then Dr. Gallagher was in a quandary as to how to make out the death certificate. As Hall died worth perhaps \$40,000, the matter was of considerable importance, and the physician decided to report the case to the Coroner. Dr. Gallagher was able and willing to certify that cancer of the breast was the cause of death, but he was undecided as to what sex he should ascribe to an individual who lived and died as a man and who yet was unmistakably a woman.

**Dodged Sex Question.**  
Chief Clerk Reynolds, of the Coroner's Office, looked up the law, which says that it is the duty of a citizen to report to the Coroner the death of a person "who shall have died in a suspicious or unusual manner." There was nothing suspicious about the death of Hall, but there was clearly something unusual about it, and so Clerk Reynolds took a report from Dr. Gallagher, in which the question of sex was avoided and the deceased was described as "Murray Hall, age sixty, white, with a residence at 145 Sixth avenue."

Dr. Gallagher reported the case to Coroner Hart, though the death occurred in Coroner Zucca's district. Dr. Gallagher said that he went to Hart because he knew him and was aware that he was acquainted with Hall. Coroner Hart and Chief Clerk Rey-

## SOME THINGS THAT MURRAY HALL DID.

- She voted the Tammany ticket for thirty-odd years.
- She was a member of the Iroquois Club, the political body of the Fifth Assembly District.
- She smoked cigars and chewed tobacco.
- She was a confirmed poker player.
- She drank beer and whiskey and liked to stay out late with her political friends.
- She attended all of the district chowder parties.
- She nearly knocked out a policeman who attempted to arrest her.

nolds made an effort to keep the facts from the reporters, and used every endeavor to suppress the report of Dr. Gallagher. In the report which Clerk Reynolds gave to the reporters there was no statement regarding the sex of the dead person.

The suggestion is made that Coroner Hart was interested in keeping the incident quiet because of Hall's prominence as a Tammany worker.

Murray Hall came to New York thirty years ago and opened an employment bureau at Sixth avenue and Twenty-third street. The business was prosperous, and soon after a woman appeared and was introduced as the wife of the owner of the employment bureau. This woman lived with Hall for several years and then disappeared. Neighbors do not know whether she died or whether she deserted her "husband." She often found fault with the bibulous habits of her consort, and told friends that Hall devoted too much time to other women and came home too late at night and too drunk to please her. She threatened to secure a divorce, and for all the neighbors know she may have done so.

### A Skeleton in a Box.

Artie Hughes, a laborer, told a story some time ago which aroused very little interest at the time, but is now repeated by neighborhood gossips as a possible solution of the life mystery of Murray Hall.

Hughes said that he was employed by Hall years ago, after the woman

known as his first wife had disappeared, to clean the cellar of a house in Sixth avenue, long since torn down. In the cellar was a long box. Hall warned Hughes not to go near it. Hughes opened it, he said, and found a human skeleton.

From this has grown the story that the real Murray Hall quarrelled with his wife, was killed and secreted, while the woman took his name, wore his attire and was known as the man whose skeleton was found by Hughes. Opposed to this gossip is the known fact that Murray Hall did not move off Sixth avenue, and that to-day the employment bureau is within six blocks of the original site.

There are people on Sixth avenue who remember Hall and his first wife. The dead body at 145 Sixth avenue is, they say, that of the person they knew as Murray Hall years ago.

### Married Handsome Woman.

A few years later Hall was married again, this time to a handsome woman six feet high and nearly twice his own weight. Hall was but 4 feet 7 inches high, and during the time he lived with his second wife she was known as the head of the family. The employment bureau, which had been moved to a building on the site of the present Siegel-Cooper store and afterward to 145 Sixth avenue, was conducted in her name until her death, July, 1898.

The couple adopted a girl who is now twenty-two years old and is the sole heir to the property left by her adopted parents. She never suspected that her reputed foster father was a woman and will not learn it now except from the papers.

Hall was arrested a few years ago on a charge of furnishing straw ball and was taken to the Leonard street police station. He obtained bail and was released, but celebrated the event so enthusiastically that he was arrested again within a few hours for intoxication. He resisted so energetically that two policemen were required to load him into a patrol wagon.

At the Iroquois Club, 4 West Thirtieth street, Hall was known as a pleasant little fellow who liked to talk politics and play checkers. His neighbors knew him as a pugnacious little chap who was disposed to stick up for what he believed to be his rights. They say that he often quarrelled with his wife because she objected to his attentions to girls who went to him in search of employment. He frequently asked them to go to saloons and take drinks with him, and occasionally took them to the theatre. He seemed fond and proud of his wife, however, and was often seen with her at theatres and on excursions.

Everybody in the west side district knew some characteristic anecdote of the queer little individual. "Why of course I knew Hall," said the barkeeper around the corner, "he came here every day. His favorite tippie in the early morning was Scotch whiskey.

He used to call for it in a high falsetto voice, and always inflated upon my taking a drink with him. He was a great ladies' man. Two or

three times a day he would go to a barrel house around near Eighth avenue, accompanied by two or three women. They would drink five-cent whiskey out of big glasses."

At the Jefferson Market Police Court Hall was well known. He was constantly on hand to bail out prisoners who could pay for the accommodation.

### Personal Characteristics.

Hall's personality was very marked. Just four feet seven inches high, with delicate hands and very small feet, he pattered up and down Sixth avenue and around the narrow streets of old Greenwich village.

Always shabbily dressed, with an old-fashioned derby hat pulled well down over the ears, he transacted business in a unlike fashion. "Say," the old man was a caution at a bargain," said the grocerman at the corner market. "He did all his marketing himself. None of the women was allowed to buy anything. Sometimes he brought his wife to market with him. "She was a big, fine-looking woman. She must have weighed 200 pounds, while Hall weighed just about 100 pounds. He was sly in his purchases and always picked out the articles he wanted."

Murray Hall, up to two years ago, had three constant companions on his walks. They were his big and handsome wife, their adopted daughter, Miss Minnie Hall, and a black and tan dog at least

Murray Hall

The mystery of Sixth avenue, who was known as a man all of his New York life, died at the age of sixty years and then it was discovered "he" was a woman. A dog was his favorite walking companion.

fifteen years old. This dog has been for years the bane of the neighborhood. Everybody hated him. He made more noise, they say, than the elevated trains. "We used to kick about the dog," said Louis Relcher, of the Hotel Hochheim, "Everybody in the block did, for that matter, but it made no difference. "Hall was willing to fight for the dog. He did have several rows on account of

should always be Republican," he would say in his squeaky voice, "and the city should always be controlled by Tammany." Lena Relcher, a pretty young girl, whose brothers own a hotel in the block next to Hall's employment bureau, was once bitten by his dog. "Mr. Hall was always polite and gentlemanly," said she usually in reply. "I know he flirted with women who came to the bureau seeking work. I heard that his wife was very jealous of him. No one ever suspected that he was not a man. We tried to laugh at his funny ways and his pigeon-toed walk."

### The Estate.

The executor of Hall's will, Attorney Thomas Moran, had an office in the building where the employment bureau was situated. He knew Hall well. Just what to do with the legal papers is puzzling him.

"Hall got full on an excursion of the district organization," said Moran, "and he raised Cain. In business matters he was godfather, keen and quick. He was charitable in unexpected ways. The estate he left is a comfortable one, though not large. His wife appeared devoted to him."

Mr. Hall frequently called at the cigar store two doors from his place. He smoked big black cigars. He was in here one night when a woman came in begging. Hall had a soft heart. He gave her money and told her he would get her a job next day. She is working now in a restaurant in this block.

The shocking ill-fitting clothes that he wore were made loose purposely to conceal the delicate make up. There were many odd traits which in the years he lived there excited comment, but came to be accepted as characteristics of the "man."

His aversion to the society of men was well known. Not unless business or politics demanded, did he have anything to say to men. No man was employed in his bureau. His customers were all women. His companions in his drinking haunts were women.

After the death of his wife, in 1899, he failed rapidly. His dog, his adopted daughter and his female servant were almost his sole companions, except when he wanted to visit the cheap liquor store around on the next avenue. Then he took with him female companions who drink whiskey out of beer glasses and protest if they are not filled to the brim.

### "He" Was Foxy.

Tammany politicians of the Assembly district were amused and chagrined to-day when they learned that their precinct worker Hall was a woman. "We thought he was a 'sucker,'" said one, "but he was 'stringing' us all the time. The fellow had his hand out all the time—wanted to be paid for all he did—and you couldn't 'con' him. His head just snowed above the bar, but he was ready to scrap any old time."

"Why, I've seen him vote at a dog election. He was 'foxy,' too. He was a Republican one time and a Democrat the next—just as the boss wanted. "He could turn a trick as neatly as any one in the business. But you had to pay him. He was not in politics for his health. "Where did the queer individual who posed as a man for thirty years come from?"

### Was a Scotchwoman.

Hall was Scotch by birth. But the

oldest residents of the Sixth avenue block recall that he came to New York from California three decades ago. San Francisco is where his only correspondent lived. Every week he sent a letter to this unknown friend or relation. He bought his stamps at the cigar store near him.

"I want to help Uncle Sam along," was the invariable form of his weekly statement to the cigar man. "Give me a two-cent stamp. That's for my sweet heart," he would chuckle, as he dropped the letter in the box.

Hall is said to have sailed from Glasgow to the coast in '49, and to have come East after trying the gold fields.

## INTENSE SUFFERING

FROM DYSPEPSIA AND STOMACH TROUBLE

Instantly Relieved and Permanently Cured by Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

A New Discovery, but Not a Patent Medicine.

Dr. Redwell relates an interesting account of what he considers a remarkable cure of acute stomach trouble and chronic dyspepsia by the use of the new discovery, Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

He says: "The patient was a man who had suffered, to my knowledge, for years with dyspepsia. Everything he ate seemed to sour and create gases in the stomach. He had pains like rheumatism in the back, shoulder blades and limbs, fulness and distress after eating, poor appetite and loss of flesh; the heart became affected, causing palpitation and sleeplessness at night."

"I gave him powerful nerve tonics and blood remedies, but to no purpose. As an experiment I finally bought a 50 cent package of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets at a drug store and gave them to him. Almost immediate relief was given, and after he had used four boxes he was to all appearances fully cured."

"There were no more acidity or sour, watery risings, no bloating after meals; the appetite was vigorous and he had gained between 10 and 12 pounds in weight of solid healthy flesh."

"Although Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are advertised and sold in drug stores, you I consider them a most valuable addition to any physician's line of remedies, as they are perfectly harmless and can be given to children or invalids or in any condition of the stomach, with perfect safety, being harmless and containing nothing but fruit and vegetable essences, pure pepsin and golden seal. "Without any question they are the safest, most effective cure for indigestion, bilious-