

DEATH REVEALED HER SEX

MURRAY HALL MASQUERADED ALL HER LIFE AS A MAN.

SHE MADE A FORTUNE AS A PROFESSIONAL BONDSMAN AND POLITICIAN, AND WAS WIDELY KNOWN.

There was born in the lower West Side of the city about forty-two years ago a child whose surname was Hall. The little one was a girl. Whether or not the parents christened her Mary Hall or Elizabeth Hall is not known by any living person now, so far as could be learned last night. When the child grew to womanhood she had a hard time to eke out a scanty livelihood, so she decided to wear men's clothes, and to make the public believe that she was really a man. She took the name of Murray Hall.

That was many years ago—at least fifteen, if not more than twenty, years. She died yesterday at No. 145 Sixth-ave., where she is said to have managed an employment agency. She was not only well known in the street in which she lived and died, but she had a large number of political friends. She was a familiar figure in the Jefferson Market police court, as she almost daily appeared in court to furnish bonds for prisoners there. She was known as a professional bondsman, and this fact alone gained for her considerably notoriety.

She had great political influence in the district in which she lived, but it could not be learned last night if she had ever cast a vote for any candidate for public office. Though she moved about freely in the society of men, she disguised herself so well that none of her scores of friends and acquaintances suspected that she was a woman. By masquerading as a man she succeeded in obtaining the ambition of her life—money. She is said to have left an estate valued at thousands of dollars. Her death was due to a cancer.

The death of Murray Hall was reported to the Coroner's office by Dr. William C. Gallagher, of No. 302 West Twelfth-st. He told the Coroner that the dead person was a woman.

Some friends of Murray Hall spoke freely last night to a Tribune reporter about the life of the dead person. One of them said that Hall had been twice married, and that her first wife died about seven years ago. The home of the first wife was said to have been in Connecticut. When she died her body was sent to that State for burial. According to another person, who said he had known Hall for many years, Hall's second wife died about two years ago. This same person said that Hall had an adopted daughter. It was also learned that Murray Hall lived for many years in Sixteenth-st., between Seventh and Eighth aves., in which street she had a store and employed a number of men as helpers.

The house No. 145 Sixth-ave is a three story brick building, occupied mostly by offices. A woman, who said she was Mrs. Esther Reynolds, when asked about the death of Murray Hall said she knew the "whole family." She said she could not understand why so many people should make inquiries about the death of "Mr." Hall. She refused to say anything about the person. So far as she knew "Mr." Hall was a man.

Dr. Gallagher was seen at his home last night, but he declined to say anything about Murray Hall. He added that whatever statement he had to make would be made to the proper authorities.

Soon after the notice of the death of Murray Hall was received at the Coroner's office, Coroner Zucca was seen at the Colonial Hotel, at Eighth-ave. and One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st., and said:

"'Murray Hall' was a woman about forty-two years old, and had dressed as a male in order to help her business along."

Murray Hall was about five feet tall. She was smooth shaven. She was always neatly dressed. A person in speaking about Hall last night said: "Hall and I were very well acquainted. He came into my place often to read novels."

Another person, who said he had known Murray Hall for a long time said: "This man Hall lost his wife by death about two years ago last July, and since then Mr. Hall had been complaining of his grief in the saloons. I have known him for about ten years, and know of no reason why I should question his sex."

This same person also said that Hall was arrested about a year ago for defaulting on some bonds. On the building No. 145 Sixth-ave. is a sign, with the inscription, "Mrs. Hall's Employment Agency."