

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM S. HALL

The Quarterly Conference of Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church, South, places on its records this memorial of William S. Hall who died on the 7th day of August 1912.

Mr. Hall had been a member of this Church for ten years and a Steward for the greater part of the time, having removed his membership here from his old home church in Fairfield County. He came to us in his mature years and we knew him at that age when Godly men are at their best. We were associated with him in the years of his maturity when he had the wisdom and strength of years without the frailties of old age. We saw in him the full development of an unusually high type of Christian manhood.

Mr. Hall was born in Fairfield County in 1840 and spent his childhood on his father's plantation in that County not far from the Chester line. He was educated in the schools of his County and had the fostering care and diligent training of a faithful, vigilant mother.

He was a student at Wofford College when the War between the States began, with bright prospects for a successful college course and life of culture. In the Spring of 1861, then in his junior year, in company with a number of patriotic comrades he bade farewell to college life and enlisted in the service of the Confederate Army. He served gallantly until a severe wound incapacitated him from further service. At the close of the war under adverse and very changed circumstances he began the struggle of life, with a determination to serve his Country as faithfully as a private citizen as he had done as a soldier. He was always a patriot in the true and right sense of the word. Few men took a deeper and more unselfish interest in public affairs than he did. He was ever ready to do what he could for the promotion of what was best for his Country and his fellow men. He took a deep interest in the cause of education, his last work in this life being a written review of some educational developments in South Carolina, in which he had taken an active part and which finally resulted in the establishment of Winthrop College.

His home life was one of rare devotion and excellence. Married in the closing days of the Civil War while yet on crutches he was for nearly fifty years a faithful, considerate and loving husband to the worthy woman who had entrusted her life and name to him. He spent the years of his young manhood and middle age working diligently and successfully for the support and education of his children and had the satisfaction of seeing them all educated and well settled in life before he left them. His unwavering devotion to his family was one of the crowning features of his life and character.

Being brought up in a Christian home by a mother of superior traits of character he early became a member of Bethel, the church of his father and mother and was a faithful and devoted member of that church to the end of his life. He was a worthy official in his church for more than forty years and his interest in her welfare never lagged. He supported the church liberally of his means, was a regular attendant upon the public services and was one of those who could give a reason for the faith that was in him. He loved the people of God of every name and denomination. His life was one of personal purity and his walk and conversation was at all times above reproach.

Although he was unable to finish his college education and on account of the disastrous results of the war had to enter vigorously into the struggle for life, yet he never lost his thirst for knowledge and his interest in reading.

He spent the last years of his life in ease and comfort and approached the end quietly and serenely, well prepared for the transition from this to a better world.

Mr. Hall was a modest unassuming man, slow to form and express his opinions, but he was firm in his position when once taken and conscientiously stood by his convictions. He was a kind heart and tender sentiments. There was much in his life and character to admire, love and emulate. We are thankful that the last of his life was spent among us, and that we had an opportunity of knowing and coming into close communion with a man of so many beautiful traits of character.

This tribute was found in Bethel's archives.

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