

Transcribed from The Leek Post, 11 April 1930, p.8

Note: The correct date of death is 24 March 1930.

The last part of the original document is missing.

Many of the names in the list of mourners are incomplete because they had been cut off the original document.

Late Mr. John Hall, J.P.

Leek Grand Old Man's Funeral.

The Town in Mourning.

Crowds Gather to Pay a Last Tribute.

The funeral took place this (Friday) afternoon at the Leek cemetery of the late Mr. John Hall, J.P., of Ball Haye Hall a director of Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall Ltd., whose death, which we fully reported a fortnight ago, took place at Monte Carlo on March 23, *[sic]* at the age of ninety.

The body was cremated at Marseilles, and the remains were conveyed by sea to London, and brought to Leek by train, and enclosed in a pannelled *[sic]* oak casket, which bore the simple inscription,

"John Hall"
Born January 7th, 1840
Died March 24th, 1930

It was ample evidence from the large number of people who attended the Brunswick Chapel, where the service preceding the interment was conducted, that the late Mr. Hall had been held in high esteem throughout his active life by every section of the community. Representatives of numerous public organisations were present, the

employees of Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall Ltd., ceased work, and a large assembly gathered around the vault in the cemetery, where a special platform had been arranged to accommodate the mourners and immediate friends.

The Service.

The service at Brunswick Chapel was conducted by the Rev. W. Siberton Baker (Minister of the Brunswick Wesleyan Church), who was assisted by the Rev. H.W. Pates (Superintendent Wesleyan Minister of the Leek Circuit). Mr. Goodwin played the organ, and after the sentences, Psalm, and lesson, the congregation joined in singing the hymns, "Eternal Light, Eternal Light," and "O God, our Help in ages past."

MINISTER'S ADDRESS.

The Rev. W. Siberton Baker in his address said: - We meet to-day to the glory of God and in memory of an aged Christian warrior whose campaign is over and who has now fallen on sleep. We bring his ashes into the sanctuary where for many years he has joined in the praise of the Almighty, and around all that is mortal of John Hall we praise Him who hath given and who hath taken away, and whose Name is forever blessed.

We sorrow with those who to-day mourn his passing, and who will perhaps only gradually realise how wide, in family, business and public life, is the gap, which his demise has created. He had exceeded by over twenty years the psalmist's allotted seventy years' span of human life; he had in fact entered the majority of his old age. We cannot therefore say our grief at his leaving us is of the same emotional quality as if he had been cut off in his prime before his work was done. Rather does it savour of that blend of reverence and honour which we offer to a veteran hero of many campaigns who has eventually fallen, not through wounds, but through the sheer weight of years.

With our genuine sympathy we would also express gratitude that, after so arduous and long a life, our friend was spared the distress of a slow wearisome descent into the valley of the shadow. The summons came quickly and quietly. Despite the remarkable conservation of his physical and mental powers, and the natural tenacity with which he held on to his lengthening years, he answered the summons readily and passed into the unseen after happily only a short illness and a minimum of pain. There in that unseen country, which is never far from any of us, he finds awaiting him his beloved wife Marie, who passed over many years ago, and his gracious sister, four years his junior, who predeceased him by only a few short days.

Publicity has already been widely given to the story of his life. It is incumbent upon me, and opportune, to attempt some estimate of his character and influence, and of that half-concealed and half-revealed wonder we call his personality. Where it may be difficult for one who has known him a short time to present a complete portrait, it may be possible to

attempt a sketch not altogether untrue to his fundamental qualities. This is made easier by the fact that John Hall was ever true to himself. His character was stable and consistent to the end, and his pronounced qualities were little touched by the swift passing years.

John Hall was born for leadership. He cut his own path through unprospected territory. Others benefited by the highway thus made. By strength of will, tenacity of purpose, and by ridiculing difficulties, he stood revealed as a commanding man. He quickly made up his mind, and once his course was fixed he seldom vacillated or weakened, whether in business, church life, or public service. Leadership has its disabilities as well as its rewards. No man can be in advance of most others without being closely watched and rigorously criticised. A nonentity escapes notice because he is a nonentity. A leader of men, because he is a leader, exposes himself to the public gaze, and is often condemned and misunderstood because he has no time to explain himself or defend his motives to the crowd; he rather leaves the verdict to the arbitrament of his conscience or his God. It was undoubtedly so with John Hall. In all his laden years, whilst directing men and things and courting the misjudgement of others, he nevertheless maintained a firm standard of honour and integrity, doing only what he believed to be right.

He was munificent to a degree. His benefactions enriched almost every church and righteous cause. Whilst loyal to the Wesleyan Church, to which all his life he belonged, his philanthropy was truly catholic in the service of men. His gift of a complete branch to the National Children's Home of the Wesleyan Church was only one of a constellation of benefactions.

His industry, too, was amazing. Not until his later years did he allow himself a real rest, and then it was but intermittent. He thrived on labour. Even after his 90th year he was very often seen walking to his office with remarkable agility and sureness of step. He was intolerant of laziness and incompetence, both in himself and others. His success in life was not due to the turn of any lucky wheel, or the capricious throw of the dice, but to his own conscientious and arduous toil, and his just demand that those associated with him should be equally alive.

John Hall was a great man, and, like all great men had the defects inherent in greatness. His crowded years left perhaps insufficient room for some of the milder virtues or those legitimate sentimentalities which often sweeten life and lighten its burden. Yet as one who was privileged to know him quite intimately during his last months, I may truly speak of the very human and humble side of his complex character. I have seen him, even in his 90th year, chopping wood at his house on the Roaches, and staying his arm to chat and laugh and play with little children who might be enjoying his hospitality there. He was quietly but generously bountiful at Christmas tide, as scores will know.

He loved his garden. He used to say it was the only real luxury he permitted himself. He

was a keen conversationalist, and even in very advancing years could speak on many things in an informative and forceful way. He read widely, and his library revealed up-to-date literary interests. He always belonged to the age in which he found himself, and despite his four score years and ten, never allowed himself to be intellectually obsolete. Just before leaving for the South of France, where he died, he declared his intention of returning by air.

Now his course is complete. He has run his race, encompassed by so great a cloud of witnesses. We reverently and worshipfully commit his ashes to the vault

"until the scale
Of time and conscious nature disappear,
Lost in unsearchable eternity."

The remains were afterwards conveyed to the cemetery, and placed amid many manifestations of sincere regret, in the family vault.

The Mourners.

The following were the principal mourners: - Mr. and Mrs. Howe Hall, Mr. and Mrs. George Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hall (sons and daughters-in-law), Miss Hall and Miss Agnes Hall (daughters), Colonel and Mrs. Tucker (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hall (brother and sister-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Stenson, Flight-Lieut. W.S. Allen, Mr. John and Miss Joan Hall (grandchildren); Mrs. Bernard Hall and Mrs. G.J. Antrobus.

The procession of mourners was headed by Colonel A.F. Nicholson, J.P., D.L., managing director of Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall Ltd., and the following directors: Mr. A.H. Moore, J.P., Mr. J. Porez, and Mr. W. Davis. The firm's representatives and departmental managers were: Mr. G. Plant (cashier), Mr. H. Hood (secretary), Mr. T. Sigley, Mr. J. Fowler, Mr. B. Stubbs, Mr. A. Williamson, Mr. A. Nixon, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. V. Astbury, Mr. W. Morton, Mr. J. Hyde, Mr. F. Whitter, Mr. T. Pocock, Mr. E. Bayley, Mr. J. Bennison, Mr. W. Roe, Mr. J. Berrisford, Mr. W. Walker, Mr. E. Clowes, Mr. A. Nadin, Mr. W. Heath, Mr. E. Brough, Mr. J. Shallcross, and Mr. Dook, of Crofts and Naylor (auditors).

Representing the West Street Sunday School were the following officers and teachers: Messrs. A. Broster (superintendent), H. Ellerton, A.W. Ellerton, H. Ball, W. Rhead, C.T. Ball, Harold Ball, Harry Millar, H.H. Goodwin, Harold Yates, N. Kelsall, Harold Hudson, W. Moores.

Representing the Cheadle Mill were Messrs. J.W. Goodwin (late manager), W. Shaw, D. Austin, C. Sleigh, and W. Lowndes and Mr. F. Bode.

Representatives of the Society Stewards of Brunswick Church were Messrs. J.T. Allcock, W. Gallimore, W. Hassall.

The following represented Mount Pleasant Church: Messrs. A. Hambleton, F. Kelsall and W. Pickering.

Other mourners present were: - Mr. T. Goddard, Mr. F. Bowcock, Mr. J. Sigley (Wesleyan Institute), Mr. D. Ingle, Rev. T.M. Rees; Mr. E. Rowley, Mr. J. Mycock, Mr. W. Mycock, Mr. and Mrs. J. Parker (Roaches House), Rev. ?? Withers Green, Councillor F. Hill, Mr. ? R. Brunt (Maccelsfield), Mr. A. Vin?? (librarian), Mr. A. Thompson, Mr. ?? Birch, Mr. C.L. Birch, Mr. E.O. Jon?? (of Messrs. Challinors and Shaw), Mr. ?A.B. Arnison (G. Davenport Adams), M?? A. Tatton, Capt. H.P.O. Sleigh, Mr. ?? Warren (representing Sir Philip Brockhurst, Bart.), Rev. R.M. Thompson, Mr. A.C. Nixon (Stanwell Moor), Mr. J. Co? (Silk Manufacturer's Association and ??? employee), Mr. J.C. Gilbert (Bourne??, Bullock and Co.), Mr. W.H. Pickering, Mr. J. Ward and Councillor G.H. Sh??don (Memorial Cottage Hospital), Mr. E. ? Watson, Rev. P. Rock, Councillor W. ? Warrington, Mr. J.W. Wardle, Mr. J. ? Wardle, Mr. F. Smith, Mr. Bowcock, Mr. ? E. Turner, Mr. W. Hudson, Mr. ? Morres, Mr. F.T. Robinson, Mr. E. Gol??straw, Mr. S. Baily, Mr. Mason, Mr. ? T. Wheeldon, Mr. E. Titterton, Mr. R.W. Burroughs, Mr. R. Birch, Mr. J. Turn?? (Rushton), Mr. C. Simpson, Councillor ? Provost, J.P., Mr. W. Hassall, J.P., C.?, Mr. G.H. Hay, Mr. H.J. Cope, Mr. ? Fogg, J.P., Mr. G.E. Watson, J.P.

Mr. W.H. Carwright, Mr. ? Myott and Mr. J. Saunders and M? ? Saunders represented the "Marie Hall" Boys' Home (Congleton).

Mr. J.A. Jones (Managing Director ??? Wardle, Davenport Ltd.), ??? Somerville, Rev. H.G. Burgiss, ??? T. Ward, Mr. E.V. Dodd (of ?? Courtaulds Ltd.), Mr. E. Birch, ??? E. Beacham (Surveyor), Colonel ?? Worthington, Mr. W. Turner (Mill ?? School).

Mr. W.H. Wadsworth (Frost and ?? Maccelsfield), Dr. Johnson, Mr. E. W????, Mr. E. Trafford, Mr. W.H. and Mr. ? Birch (Ball Haye Green Chapel), and ?? W. Moores; Mr. E. Cope, Mr. T. Bar?er, Mr. G.B. Hale, Mr. J. Lancaster, Mr. J. Burton, Mr. W. Earles, Mr. J.C. Clayton, Mr. Whittles, Mr. W. Massé, Mr. E. Fryer (Messrs. W. North and Co., Ltd., Bradford and Messrs. Wm Thompson and Co., Ltd., Galgate), Mr. H. Jones Hughes (senior traveller Brough, Nicholson and Hall).

The following members of the 2nd Leek Troop of Boy Scouts formed a guard of honour: C. Mellor, G.S.M., H.G. Bloor, S.M., S. Gerrard, A.C.M., A. Rhead, C.M., J. Swarbrook, A.C.M., G. Geston (group librarian).

The following represented the Local Preachers' Association: - Messrs. J.W. Wardle, J.H.

Wain, W. Earls, J. Wheeldon, J. Burton, J. Lancaster, R.W. Burroughs, J. Turnock, J. Barber, R. Birch, S. Cundy, E. Titterton and W. Turner.

FLORAL TRIBUTES.

The following is a list of the beautiful floral tributes, the majority of which were arranged upon a farm wagon.

- Wreath - Howe, Irene and Peter (Cheddleton Heath).
- Wreath - Bernard and Molly, Pat and Pam.
- Wreath - All at Bettyswood.
- Wreath - Elsie and Leon.
- Cross - Katie and Agnes.
- Wreath - Mariani and Pat (London).
- Wreath - Annie, Edith and Will.
- Wreath - Mr. W. Allen and Flight-Lt. F.S. Allen (London).
- Wreath - Nellie and Lidge.
- Wreath - Harold and Margaret.
- Wreath - Ralph and Louie.
- Wreath - Ellen, Will and Alec.
- Wreath - Lady Nicholson.
- Wreath - Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Nicholson (Sherborne).
- Wreath - Colonel and Mrs. A.F. Nicholson.
- Wreath - Mr. and Mrs. P. Kiek (London).
- Wreath - A.H. Moore, Esq.
- Wreath - Mrs. Arthur Shaw (Oldhouse).
- Wreath - Misses Wardle and Mrs. M. Illsley (of Ashcombe Level and South fields).
- Cross - Mr. and Mrs. Robinson and family, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- Wreath - Mr. and Mrs. S. Ernest Nixon (near Staines).
- Wreath - Mr. and Mrs. John Ward.
- Wreath - Mr. and Mrs. G.E. Watson.
- Wreath - Mr. and Mrs. W. Davis.
- Wreath - Mr. and Mrs. C. Birch, Beech Dene.
- Wreath - Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Tatton.
- Wreath - G.C. Wardle and family.
- Wreath - Mr. and Mrs. Massé.
- Wreath - H.F. Rabone.
- Wreath - Colonel and Mrs. W.F. Challenor (Great Missenden).
- Wreath - Mr. T.B. Boynton and Mrs. J.L. Merville (Ashenhurst).
- Wreath - Miss A. Hall (Ipstones).
- Wreath - Mrs. Phillips (Ashenhurst).
- Wreath - C.J. Antrobus, Congleton.
- Staffordshire knot - Colonel and Mrs. J. Boynton (London).

Wreath - Henry Johnson (Coventry).
Wreath - Mr. Frank Dook and Mr. J. Croft (Manchester)
Wreath - Arthur S. Boucher.
Wreath - Mr. J.R. Brough (London).
Wreath - Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Somerville.
Wreath - Edward and Margery Watson.
Wreath - Mr. and Mrs. W. Rhead.
Wreath - Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Saunders (Congleton "Marie Hall" Home).
Wreath - Staff and Boys of "Marie Hall" Home, Congleton.
Wreath - Major and Mrs. W.M. Lovatts (Southfields).
Wreath - Rev. W. Hodson Smith (National Children's Home and Orphanage).
Wreath - Members of Manufacturers' and Dyers' Association.
Wreath - Officials and members, Leek Central Liberal Club.
Wreath - Teachers. West Street Wesleyan Day Schools.
Wreath - Associates of West St. Sunday School.
Wreath - Mount Pleasant Chapel Trustees.
Wreath - Leek Photographic Society.
Wreath - Cruso Nursing Association.
Spray - A token of esteem. - P.M.
Wreath - Managers, Hope Mill.
Wreath - Braid Department, Hope Mill.
Wreath - Lace Department, Hope Mill.
Wreath - Cord Department, Hope Mill.
Wreath - Printing Dept., Hope Mill.
Wreath - Mechanics' Shop, Hope Mill.
Wreath - Knitting Dept., Hope Mill.
Wreath - Painters, London Mill.
Wreath - Building Dept., London Mill.
Wreath - Binding and Weaving Dept.,

This was all there was available from the original.

