

Allen Wall

Born: Feb. 6. 1837 ~ Died: Dec. 17, 1894

Married: Apr. 16, 1874, Lizzie J. Stiles, of Washington, D. C.

The following is from an obituary sketch written by J. Sutton Wall, of Harrisburg, Pa., shortly after Capt. Wall's death.

Captain Allen Wall died at his residence in Washington, D. C, on Monday, Dec. 17, 1894, at 12:50 p. m., of paralysis, after an illness of about two months' duration. The funeral services were conducted from his late home, No. 934 B Street (South-west) on the following Wednesday at 2 p. m. by his pastor. Rev. Dr. Pettinger, of the Fourth Presbyterian church of that city; interment private. His body was borne to its final resting place in Rock Creek cemetery, near the National Soldiers' Home, by the affectionate hands of his colleagues and personal friends of the U. S. Treasury Department, in which he had faithfully labored during the latter half of his eventful and happy life. The high esteem in which he was held by a large circle of friends and acquaintances was strikingly exhibited in the profusion of floral offerings tenderly placed around his casket and at the grave by his fellow clerks of the Treasury Department, members of the G. A. R., Masonic brethren, members of the church, and numerous other friends.

He was the eldest son and child of Joseph and Frances (Allen) Wall, and was born Feb. 6. 1837, on the "Homestead Farm" of his maternal great grandfather, Joseph Warne, which, at whose death, descended to his eldest daughter Mary, wife of David Allen, Sr., and at their death passed to their daughter Frances, the first wife of the late Joseph Wall, Esquire.

He, on Apr. 16, 1874, married Miss Lizzie J. Stiles, a native of Boston, Mass., a lady of culture and refinement, who was then residing with her father and mother in Washington, D. C. She was an only daughter, and sister of the late Captain Daniel F. Stiles, of the U. S. Army, who had charge of the military post at Oklahoma, when that territory was opened to settlers.

When young Captain Wall was bright and studious, attended the schools of his home Neighborhood, took a preparatory course for entering college with Rev. Dr. Alonzo Linn, late Professor and Vice-President of Washington and Jefferson College, entered the Jefferson College, then located at Canonsburg, Pa., in the class of 1855, taking a classical course, from which he graduated with honor in his nineteenth year. His classmates speak of him as a courteous and affable young man, attractive in person and bright in intellect. He made rapid progress in his studies and stood high in scholarship. After leaving college, his health and physical growth requiring care and development, he devoted some time to teaching private classes in the higher branches and to teaching in the public schools of his home neighborhood. In 1859, he began the study of law in the office of Penney and Sterrett in Pittsburg, where in due time he was admitted to the bar of Allegheny County. The War of the Rebellion being now in progress, he did not at once

commence the active practice of the law, but entered the Union Service as a member of Company "F" of the 155th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, where he served with credit, and participated in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. The severity of active field duty commenced to affect his health to such a degree that his soldier friends had him detailed to headquarters, and to the Signal Corps, where he served out the balance of his term of enlistment, and was honorably discharged. Soon after the close of the War he was appointed to a clerkship in the Adjutant General's office at Washington, D. C, afterwards transferred to the War Department, and subsequently accepted a place in Division of Accounts in the U. S. Treasury Department, where by reason of ability and faithfulness to duty he remained until the close of his honorable and patriotic life.

He united with the Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C, in 1877, under the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. John C. Smith, and both he and his wife afterwards became members of the Fourth Presbyterian church of that city, some years prior to his decease. He was zealous in church work, was domestic in his home life, and took special interest in the comfort and happiness of his family and the education of his children. Much of his leisure in late years was spent in literary work of a historical character, being a frequent contributor to the journals of Western Pennsylvania. His series of "Olden Time" articles, published a few years since in the Elisabeth Herald form an interesting and valuable contribution to the early history of portions of the Monongahela Valley and Allegheny County. He was a ready and able writer, and had a high regard for facts and accuracy of statement in all of his literary work. He was an ardent lover of music, his favorite instrument being the violin, which he learned to play in boyhood on an instrument now in possession of and carefully preserved by his family. The old violin is still in excellent condition, and was once the property of his musical friend and neighbor, Stephen Applegate, who, later in life, presented it to Captain Wall in remembrance of their early friendship and musical tastes. It was to him a cherished memento of many happy hours, entertainingly spent with friends of his youth, and in his father's family circle, at the dear old home of his childhood. Captain Wall took great pleasure in visiting his old home and friends from year to year, where he could enjoy refreshing freedom from official toil and duty. No visitor was more welcome amongst the friends of his youth and at their firesides. In writing to one of his old time friends about the "Old Homestead," not long before his death, he said, "As I write of this place my heart warms in remembrance of the sunny hours in days gone by, when I was one of a large and happy family at the dear old home."

His last visit to the "old home" was in September, 1894, just after the close of the National G. A. R. Encampment at Pittsburg, which he attended, and barely three months prior to his death. He was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and served on the staff of both the National and Department Commanders. He also took much interest in Masonry, being a member of the Commandery, Chapter, Temple and Shrine. On his father's side he was descended from Walter Wall, who came from England to America in 1635, was a great grandson of Richard Sparks, who served in the War of the American Revolution, and afterwards as a colonel in the U. S. Army, and a grandson of Captain Garret Wall, who served in the War of 1812.

Children :

a) Bella Frazer Wall, b. Jan. 23, 1875 ; m. Sept. 22, 1902, Charles Taylor Carter, of Washington, D. C, where they reside with her mother and brother.

b) Joseph Stiles Wall, M. D., b. Oct. 3, 1876; unmarried, and resides with his mother and sister at 1228 14th Street (Northwest), Washington, D. C.

c) Mary Jane Wall, b. May 23, 1838; d. June 3, 1855; unmarried.