



Montgomery Historical Society  
P. O. Box 47 Montgomery, Vermont 05470  
[www.montgomeryvt.us/mhs.htm](http://www.montgomeryvt.us/mhs.htm)  
[pratthall@gmail.com](mailto:pratthall@gmail.com)

Excerpted from: "Men of Vermont An Illustrated Biographical History of Vermonters and Sons of Vermont" compiled by Jacob G. Ullery under the editorial supervision of Hiram A. Huse, 1894



HALL, CHARLES TAYLOR of Montgomery son of Samuel S and Martha M Taylor Hall was born in Montreal PQ Feb 23 1862 He received his early education in the public schools of Waltham Mass., and completed his education in the high school at Montreal.

His father was a manufacturer of woodenware, and the son, manifesting a natural aptitude for the business from the early age of sixteen, had the practical management and was foreman of the factory, remaining in that capacity until he was twenty years old. In 1882 the factory was burned, and he engaged in the manufacture of veneering for five years, at the expiration of which time he purchased an interest in the large butter-tub works of The V. H. Stiles Company, at Montgomery Centre, and has been ever since the junior partner and business manager of the concern. The company also engage in the manufacture of floor boards and bobbins, and have been so successful in their operations that they are about to largely increase their plant, and have recently purchased one thousand acres of spruce timber land, thus providing a sufficiency of material for the next twenty years.

Though taking a lively interest in politics as a member of the Republican party, Mr. Hall has never sought or held public office, and of secret societies he is a member of the Masonic fraternity only.

He was married to Etta L., daughter of H. P. and Ann (Fogg) Foss, of Franklin, March, 1886, by whom he has had one daughter.

Excerpted from: "Successful Vermonters" by William Hartley Jeffrey. 1907



HALL, CHARLES TAYLOR, son of Samuel R and Martha M. (Taylor) Hall, was born in Montreal, Quebec, February 23, 1862. He was educated in the public schools of Waltham, Massachusetts, and the high school at Montreal. His father, a former manufacturer of wooden ware, a skillful and inventive mechanic and patentee of the machine now used for turning lasts, is still a hale and active man at the age of 76.

In December, 1888, Mr. Hall came to Montgomery Center and became the junior partner with Hon. Asa B. Nelson of Derby Line, in the ownership of the extensive spruce butter tub factory, formerly owned by W. H. Stiles & Co. He has since been the manager of this great and prosperous enterprise and has devoted to it that rare combination of energy, inventive genius and business sagacity that, in spite of two disastrous fires and other difficulties, has placed it in the front rank as the largest manufactory of spruce wood butter packages in the United States.

The company owns 8,000 acres of timber lands, cuts and manufactures 2,500,000 feet of lumber annually and sells more than a million and a half of butter tubs and packages. The tub staves are loaded upon cars which are run into a room, where they are completely seasoned and kiln dried in 48 hours, without handling until they reach the lathes, a device employed only in this factory. More than one hundred men are employed in and about the factory, mostly permanent residents. They are paid every Wednesday and the company has never had a strike.

In November, 1904, the company was incorporated as the Nelson & Hall Co., with a capital stock of \$100,000, at a premium of 20 per cent. Charles Taylor Hall is president and business manager; Colonel Charles E. Nelson of Derby Line, son of the late Hon. Asa B. Nelson is vice-president and treasurer and Pliny White Hall, brother of Charles T, who has been connected with the business for eight years, is superintendent.

The company has furnished the two villages with a system of electric lights and the Center with a sanitary water system. In politics a staunch Republican, Mr. Hall has never sought nor held public office. He is a member of Lafayette Commandery of St. Albans and of Cairo Mystic Shrine.

Charles T. Hall married, in 1886, Etta L., daughter of H. P. and Ann (Fogg) Foss of Franklin. Their two children, Mildred J. and Charles Maurice Hall, are, respectively, 13 and five years of age.

St. Albans Messenger articles and obit follow:



## PIONEER PASSES

# Charles T. Hall, County Leader, Dies Saturday in New York City

MONTGOMERY CENTER.—Charles Taylor Hall, 86, first citizen of this village for the past 60 years, whose influence was felt throughout the eastern end of the county during his active years in business, died Saturday in St. Luke's Hospital, New York City.

The veteran industrialist, who pioneered in the veneer fabrication in this section that was later developed on a larger scale after the sale of his holdings to Atlas Plywood 24 years ago, failed to rally from the last two serious operations performed there about 10 days ago.

The body of the man whose name is tied in with the community's virile years, will arrive here tonight for services and Masonic rites at the Community Baptist Church here Tuesday at 2:30 p. m. with the Rev. Harry Lindley officiating. Burial will be

in Montgomery Center.

Mr. Hall, son of the late Samuel S. and Martha Taylor Hall, was born in Waterloo, Me., Feb. 23, 1862, received his basic education in Montreal schools with a year at Sellar Institute at Grand Ligne, Que., at the age of 12.

As was the custom of the times,

he turned early to work, opening his first business in Beebe, Que. Following his marriage to the former Miss Etta Foss March 10, 1886, he joined his family in the ice business at Rockford, Ill., before settling in Montgomery in 1889.

### FORMED PARTNERSHIP

Here he formed a partnership with the late A. B. Nelson and laid the foundation of a career that was almost phenomenal in the success and wealth that it brought him, operating a butter tub factory and later turning to the manufacture of veneer.

His enterprise and vigorous management turned the village into a busy hub of activity and Mr. Hall was the dominating factor in village life until he sold his holdings to the Atlas Company in 1924 and withdrew into semi-retirement.

Too virile a man to enjoy idleness, he developed another veneer business with members of the Nelson family as the Blair Veneer Company in North Troy, a business he sold last year to the Libby-Gowens Glass Company of Pittsburgh, Pa.

He was also a party with his brother, Pliny, to interests in Maine, and was a stockholder in the Atlas Company to which he sold his property and business here.

His business acumen was widely recognized and he served as a director and officer of the Enosburg Falls Savings Bank and was a director in the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, among others.

The family maintained a comfortable home in the village in which it made its headquarters

until his children grew up and Mrs. Hall's death in December, 1943. The Halls also had a summer home at Lake Carmi, and made regular visits for over 50 year at the plantation they owned in Alabama.

A man with a lifelong curiosity about the world he lived in, he and his wife were widely traveled in 13, 1948, were held at the Community Baptist Church, Montgomery Center, at 2:30, Tuesday afternoon, with the Rev. Harry Lindley officiating.

### WIDE INTERESTS

With wide interests, he was a great reader, enjoyed good music and poetry, and the Hall home for years was a social and cultural center of this section. He sang in the choir of the Congregational Church, and later in the Community Church that was formed, and served both as a trustee.

He was the community leader in every sense. The Halls had the first electric lights and the first car in town, and the power plant which drove his factory provided the village with its first lights.

He had remained in vigorous health until the last year, becoming worse in August of this year when he spent a week at the Mary Fletcher Hospital before going to New York City.

He is survived by two children, Mrs. Otto H. Lever and C. Maurice Hall, both of Montclair, N. J.; two grandchildren, Charles Taylor Hall II and Virginia Hall; a sister, Mrs. Charles Nelson, Derby Line; a brother, Howard, Noroton, Conn., and several nieces and nephews.

Genial, keen, and a man with a versatile mind, success never lessened his interest in his adopted community nor weakened the bonds of his family with its life.

### Funeral of Charles T. Hall

MONTGOMERY CENTER, Nov. 23.—Funeral services for Charles T. Hall who died in New York, Nov. 13, were held on Tuesday Nov. 16 at 2:30 at the Community Baptist Church, Montgomery Center, Rev. H. Lindley officiating. A Masonic committal service was conducted

by members of Missisquoi Lodge, Richford, of which the deceased was a member.

Honorary bearers were Arthur Robinson, Waterloo, Que.; R. Robinson of Montreal; Will Daley of Derby; Guy McCuen of Richford; Harvey R. Gardyne and Arthur G. Rowe of Newport, Frank Black and Wesley Ovitt of Enosburg Falls; Cecil V. Slater of Sierra Madre, Calif.; Thayer Comings of Richford, Harry Hadd of Enosburg Falls, Eugene S. Wright of this place, and Delos M. Buck of Barre.

Bearers were Fred Brown of Barton; Ryland Taisey and Walter Lee of North Troy; L. D. Hart of Richford; Keith Aldrich of Hancock and H. V. Gavel of this place. Burial was in the family lot in Crescent Hill Cemetery.

## Services for 1948

# C. T. Hall at Montgomery

MONTGOMERY CTR. — Funeral services for Charles Taylor Hall, who died in New York, Nov. 13, 1948, were held at the Community Baptist Church, Montgomery Center, at 2:30, Tuesday afternoon, with the Rev. Harry Lindley officiating.

The Masonic committal service was conducted at the church by members of Missisquoi Lodge, Richford, of which the deceased was a member. Dr. and Mrs. O. H. Leber, Mr. and Mrs. C. Maurice Hall and son, Charles Taylor Hall, all of Montclair, N. J., accompanied the body here Tuesday morning.

The honorary pall bearers were close business associates and friends, Arthur F. Robinson of Waterloo, Que., Ronnie Robinson of Montreal, Will Daley of Derby, Guy L. McCuen of Richford, H. R. Gardyne and Arthur G. Rowe of Newport, W. R. Ovitt, Harry Hadd and F. R. Black of Enosburg Falls. Also, Thayer Comings of Richford, Delos M. Buck of Barre; Cecil V. Slater of Sierra Madre, Calif., and E. S. Wright of this place. Active bearers were Fred Brown of Barton, Ryland Taisey and Walter Lee of North Troy, L. D. Hart of Richford, Keith Aldrich of Hancock, and H. V. Gavel of Montgomery Center.

Burial took place in the family lot in Crescent Hill Cemetery.

Among the relatives and friends from out of town were, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman E. Hall of Newport, Mr. and Mrs. Ainslie B. Lawrence of St. Albans, Mrs. Laurel Samson and son of Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence K. Hall of Ocean City, N. J., Mr. and Mrs. Ryland Taisey, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Hunt and Walter Lee of North Troy, Mr. and Mrs. William Kimball of East Fairfield, Mrs. N. S. Parker of Waterbury, Frank Sargent of Dunkin, Que., and many friends from neighbor-



## Last Rites Held for Plywood Pioneer

Story of Life of Late C. T. Hall Also Story of Vt. Plywood Development

Funeral services for the late C. T. Hall, 86, were held Tuesday afternoon at the Montgomery Center Community Baptist Church. Rev. Harry Lindley, pastor of the church, was the officiating clergyman. Richford Lodge, F. & A. M., participated in the services.

Preceding the church services there was a short prayer service at the late home of Mr. Hall.

Both the home and the church were banked with beautiful flowers.

Several score relatives, friends, neighbors and fellow workers gathered to pay their respects to the memory of this pioneer in the Vermont plywood industry.

Interment followed the church services, with burial in the family plot in the Montgomery Center cemetery as the setting sun shed its soft glow on snow-mantled Big Jay and Jay Peak, both favorite scenic spots



C. T. Hall

of the late well-known northern Vermont business man.

Bearers were: Keith Aldrich, manager Vermont Plywood, Inc., Hancock; Fred Brown, president Enosburg Falls Savings Bank and Trust Co.; Harold Gavel, woods manager, Atlas Plywood Co., Richford; Louis Hart, Richford; Walter Lee, production manager, Blair Veneer Co., North Troy; and Ryland Taisey, vice president and treasurer, Blair Veneer Co., and president Vermont Plywood Co., Inc.

Honorary bearers included: Frank Black, cashier, Enosburg Falls Savings Bank and Trust Co.; Thayer Comings, Sweet-Comings Co., Richford; W. R. Dailey, Derby, formerly

with Veneer Products Co., Greenville, Me., and retired treasurer of Blair Veneer Co.; Harvey R. Gardyne, Lakeside Plywood Co., Newport; Guy McQuin, manager Atlas Plywood Co., Richford; Arthur Robinson, president Waterloo, Que., Plywood Corp.; Ronney Robinson, Montreal, Que.

The life of the late Mr. Hall is really the story of the veneer and plywood industry in New England.

Surviving all his earliest associates, he was able to gather round him younger men to carry on the most active work, one of these being Ryland D. Taisey, now vice president and treasurer of the Blair Veneer Co., and president of the Vermont Plywood, Inc.

Mr. Hall was highly respected for his business acumen and for his knowledge of the veneer and plywood industry, gained through 70 years of active participation.

Most of the leaders of the plywood industry in Vermont and nearby states were at one time or another his associates.

Mr. Hall's activities touched every town in the counties of Franklin, Orleans, Caledonia, and Lamoille and many other towns throughout Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

Although Mr. Hall was a staunch Republican, he never sought public office.

For over 50 years Mr. Hall was a member of Richford Lodge, No. 9, F. & A. M.

He was a member of the Congregational Church and after the union of that denomination with the Community Baptist Church of Montgomery Center, served both churches as trustee and sang in both church choirs.

With a keen appreciation of music, the late Mr. Hall missed no opportunity to listen to the great artists. He was widely traveled, having been in Europe and traveled around the world once. He enjoyed life to the full, almost to the last.

He died in St. Luke's Hospital, in New York City, November 13, following two serious operations for a stomach ailment complicated by advanced age.

The late Mr. Hall was born at Montreal, Que., February 23, 1862, son of Samuel Stillman and Martha Taylor Hall. He attended schools in Montreal, Grand Ligne, Que., and Waltham, Mass.

At the age of 16 he joined his father at Beebe, Que., in making shoe lasts sold in nearby Montreal, then a large shoe manufacturing center. It was here his father made the first veneer lathe on the American continent.

From 1887 until his death last Saturday his career was a busy one.

He manufactured butter tubs, clapboards and lumber at Montgomery Center in 1887, later forming Nelson and Hall Co., with Asa B. Nelson of Derby Line and others.

He also became associated with the Veneer Products Co., Greenville, Me.

By 1912 he was operating the largest spruce butter tub factory in the world at Montgomery Center, which was destroyed by fire on Christmas

Eve, 1912. It was rebuilt on the same site, only on a smaller scale.

His entrance into the plywood business was in 1914 when he started the manufacture of plywood boxes at Montgomery Center. He was joined by the late Ralph M. Buck, a wizard at sales' promotion.

In 1915 he joined with Myron J. Blair of North Troy, Benjamin F. Butterfield of Derby Line and others forming the Veneer Products Co. at Greenville, Me.

He built a veneer mill in 1917 at Samsonville which was destroyed by fire July 27, 1918 and then acquired a controlling interest in the Richford Mfg. Co.

He numbered among his customers some of the biggest names in the East such as: American Woolen Mills, Esmond Mills, Nashua Mfg. Co., and Victor Talking Machine Co., and soon Nelson and Hall Co. and its various affiliates were recognized as among the foremost producers of plywood for shipping containers.

In order to better serve the Victor Company in 1919 a branch assembling plant was established at Camden, N. J., in charge of a nephew, Lyman Hall, now president of Blair Veneer Co.

The Atlas Plywood Corp. of Boston found him in 1926 as one of its active organizers with others, which consolidated Nelson & Hall Co.; Richford Manufacturing Co.; Vermont Plywood Co., Morrisville; Allen Quimby Co., Stockholm, Me.; Empire Mfg. Co., and Utility Veneer Co., Goldsboro, N. C.

From 1926-28 he served as chairman of the board of the Atlas Plywood and in 1929, following the death of M. J. Blair, North Troy, founder of Blair Veneer Co., Mr. Hall became active in Blair Veneer and resigned his connections with the Atlas concern. By 1930 he acquired control, became president and concentrated all his manufacturing interests in Blair Veneer, and was elected president of French & Heald, Milford, N. H.

In 1946 he resigned as president of the Blair Veneer Co. and became chairman of the board.

Last May all stock of the Blair Veneer Co. was acquired by Owens Illinois Glass Co., Toledo, Ohio, Mr. Hall remaining as board chairman.

In addition to other life interests he served at various times for the following companies: Director New American House, Richford; president and director Vermont Plywood, Inc., Hancock; director New England Telephone and Telegraph Co., and director Buckhall Corp. He was the last survivor of the original founders and directors of the Enosburg Falls Savings Bank and Trust Co.

Survivors include a brother, Howard W. Hall, Noroton Heights, Conn.; sister, Mrs. Nellie Nelson, Derby Line and Boston, Mass.; daughter, Mrs. O. H. Leber, Montclair, N. J.; son, C. Maurice Hall, Montclair, N. J.; grandson, Charles T. Hall, II, Montclair, N. J.; and a granddaughter, Marion Virginia Hall, Montclair, N. J.

Among the members of the family attending the funeral were: Dr. and Mrs. O. H. Leber, Mr. and Mrs.

St. Al-  
Mrs. Anstee B. Lawrence,  
C. Maurice Hall and son, Charles T.;  
Miss Jeanie L. Foss, Montgomery  
Center; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence K. Lin, and Mr. and Mrs. Lyman E. Hall,  
Hall, Ocean City, N. Y.; Mr. and Newport.