

(John)

OBITUARY

4-21-1916

Mrs. Rebecca Hall.

Montezuma Republican: Sunday evening, Mrs. Rebecca Hall died at her home in Montezuma, where she had been watched over and tenderly nursed for several years by Mrs. H. Pumphrey. The deceased was one of the most highly respected of the early settlers of this section of the state. Her energy and that of her husband helped to make Iowa's history more than a half century ago.

Rebecca Hamilton was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, Feb. 18, 1830, the daughter of a Presbyterian minister and a devoted Christian mother. Her childhood and young womanhood were spent amid the environments of a cultured home. Jan. 3, 1851, she was united in marriage with John Hall. In worldly goods the happy couple were almost destitute, but had a wealth of grim determination. They resided at Roscoe, O., until 1856, when they heard the call of the west, and with the little son, John, Jr., who had come to bless the home, a prairie schooner, a team and yellow dog, they began the long journey toward the setting sun.

Arriving in what is now Poweshiek county, they settled on a farm about six miles southeast of Montezuma, built a log cabin of one room. Their first winter was one to test the courage of pioneers. With nothing but their team and willingness to battle for existence they often felt the bitter pangs of hunger during the long winter days and nights. A bench and a few carpenter's tools in the one room afforded the only means of a livelihood. The husband made cupboards and with the cash bought food.

In 1862 the husband enlisted in the Union army, Company B, Fortieth Iowa, and fought valiantly for the

preservation of the Union. Mrs. Hall, with her son, moved to Montezuma and rented property. Mr. Hall sent home each month his wages as a soldier, and with this the good wife paid for the home. At the close of the war "Uncle John," as his friends knew him, returned to his family. He served as recorder and as sheriff of the county. Later he was one of the organizers of the First National bank, of Montezuma. He was a good business man, and accumulated much property. Mr.

Hall died in 1898.

For the past fifteen years the deceased was a hopeless invalid and for the last ten or twelve years Mrs. Pumphrey has been constantly at her side. In her death one of the few remaining pioneers who marched beyond the bounds of civilization, built homes, school houses and churches, has bid adieu to earthly cares.

John Hall, who lives in Grinnell, is the only child born to them. He was anxious, during her life, that she be at all times surrounded by every comfort and saw to it that she received every care. Rebecca Hall

The funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon at the late home, conducted by Rev. Mr. Mahaffey of the Presbyterian church, to which faith she subscribed in early life and consistently lived until the final summons came. Burial was made in the Montezuma cemetery.