

SKIPPER HALL ACQUITTED. HIS STORY OF THE FLUSHING BAY TRAGEDY.

He declares that he killed Frank Duard in self-defense—He kisses his sweetheart when the verdict is announced.

Skipper Parker J. Hall of the schooner Robert P. Hall of Kingston, Mass., was acquitted last night of the charge of murdering one of his crew, a Portuguese sailor named Frank Duard, while his vessel lay at anchor in Flushing Bay, off College Point, L. I., on the night of July 3.

The trial began Tuesday before Justice Cullen in the Queens County Supreme Court, Long Island City. The evidence was all in yesterday afternoon, and the jury was out about an hour.

Many of Hall's friends from his home in Massachusetts, as well as his aged father and mother, his two sisters, and his sweetheart, were in court.

Charles Duard, brother of Frank Duard, was also present. He formed one of the crew of the Hall and was shot in the back of the head during the struggle which followed the murder.

It was on his evidence that the jury found that the Captain attacked him. Duard swore that the Captain struck him and his brother without provocation, and sought to murder them both.

The defense began their side of the case when court opened yesterday morning. Much to the disappointment of the spectators who filled the courtroom, the witness named Frank Duard, who accompanied Hall on his cruise from Boston to Flushing Bay, was not placed on the witness stand.

At a critical stage in Capt. Hall's testimony the left the witness stand, and when he did not return until the case was closed.

Capt. Hall was the principal witness of the case. He testified that the vessel was engaged between himself and his crew, Frank Duard and the latter's brother, was almost directly opposite to the witness stand when the tragedy occurred.

He testified that he was on the deck of the schooner at the time the tragedy occurred, and that he saw the two Portuguese brothers on the deck of the schooner at Boston in June, the became ill and died on the schooner.

Several witnesses testified that Hall's face after the struggle was pale and that he showed no recognition. Attempts to bring Miss Duard into the courtroom failed until late in the afternoon.

When the verdict was announced Capt. Hall kissed his sweetheart and embraced his father and mother.

Before leaving the Court House Lawyer Jerome S. McGeehan, who represented Hall, stated that he would prefer a charge of assault with intent to kill against Charles Duard.

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COOPERHWAITS CARPETS. QUALITY IS NEVER SLIGHTED.

THE SIXTY-NINTH SENATOR BILL. Five Captains Ask Him to Aid in Restoring the Regiment.

Five of the six captains of companies in the Sixty-ninth Battalion, drafted the following open letter and forwarded it to Senator Hill last night:

"Sir: When five companies of the Sixty-ninth Regiment were disbanded on the 6th of December, 1903, it was recorded, as you are so affirmed by the military authorities, that the disbandment was deemed necessary for the purpose of organizing a new regiment, to be composed only of competent officers and enlisted men.

Although suffering from the humiliation which the mandate of disbandment inflicted, and while believing that less severe measures would solve the problem of reorganization, the order to muster out of service was promptly complied with.

When the announcement was made that the Government was desirous of reorganizing the Sixty-ninth Regiment, we were interested in having the regiment restored, hope brightening the adhesion in our hearts. Right visions of a great future for the new Sixty-ninth appeared to us; and when a company under the command of Capt. Hill was organized on May 28 last many were the praises bestowed on the military authorities for their careful, conservative and judicious management.

At this time, the brigade commander, while in the line of duty, was present at the headquarters of the Sixty-ninth Regiment, and we were in the choice of a competent commanding officer, for the regiment, when reorganized, by which we were to be reorganized. We were unanimous in the selection of Capt. Hill as our commanding officer, and, as we understood, recommended that our programs of reorganization be adopted.

At this time, the brigade commander, while in the line of duty, was present at the headquarters of the Sixty-ninth Regiment, and we were in the choice of a competent commanding officer, for the regiment, when reorganized, by which we were to be reorganized.

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RAILROAD AND OTHER SHARES. Total sales of railroad bonds (par value) \$608,000.

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