

Birth: Unknown

Death: Nov. 28, 1873
Belmont (Nye County)
Nye County
Nevada, USA

Sacramento Daily Union, 12/6/1873:

The Late Execution at Belmont, Nev. - The Reese River Reveille of December 1st has the following concerning the execution at Belmont on Friday, November 28th, of D. M. Hall, convicted of the murder of John Copeland, alias Black Jack, at that place last Summer:

The gallows was erected about 400 yard from town at a point between the graveyard and slaughterhouse. The doomed man was brought to the gallows shortly after 1 o'clock, and spent the interval of two hours in smoking, speaking and listening to the spiritual consolation of the Episcopalian minister of Belmont. From a hurriedly written account of the execution, we learn that nearly all the male inhabitants of the place, and some fifteen ladies, were present to witness the hanging, and that one of the latter allowed her sympathies in favor of the prisoner to become so demonstrative that she had to be checked by her friends. In his speech to the crowd, Hall did not protest that he was innocent, as is the case with most criminals, but contended that he was justified in what he did; that Black Jack, as he called his victim, had followed him from place to place, and that he was afraid of his life. He said that he could not have had a fair trial at Belmont, as he was a stranger to everybody there and no one knew or could know of the relation between himself and his victim. He knelt on the scaffold and prayed, and seemed in peace with all mankind, forgiving all; but still thinking, or seeming to think that he was justified in what he did.

The arrangements on the scaffold were perfect, and the wretched man died without pain, the physicians declaring that he died within five minutes after the drop fell. He is reported as a young and intelligent-looking man, who came from Salt Lake to Pioche, and thence to Belmont.

A few days prior to the execution, Sheriff Caldwell opened a letter to Hall's address from a brother of his in Montana, asking for money with which to help him (the Montana brother) out of some trouble in which he had fallen.

History of Nevada (Thompson & West, 1881, p. 351:

June 17, 1873 - John Copeland was shot and killed by David M. Hall, at Belmont, Nye County. They were both from Utah, where their trouble originated. HALL was hanged on the seventeenth of October, 1873. This is the only case of hanging by sentence in this county.

[Note: The date given for the execution of Hall by Thompson and West differs by more than a month from that given by the Sacramento Daily Union article. The same article which ran in the Union ran in an abbreviated form in the Los Angeles Herald, in late November, 1873.]