

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*Proudly Honors*



**HARRIS MILTON HALL, SR.**

**UNITED STATES ARMY AIR CORPS  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
SERGEANT (E-5)**

**8 JULY 1943 – 19 JANUARY 1946**

*as*

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT**

**FEBRUARY 2025**

*Honoring his service and Sacrifice*

*Sponsored by: Webster Groves Chapter, NSDAR*



Harris Milton Hall, Sr., was born in 1924 in Alamance County, North Carolina, to a police officer and a homemaker. At the age of 17, immediately following his graduation from high school, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps to serve in World War II, as his older brother had done a year earlier. However, he was transferred with a large group of soldiers, from air training to a base in Texas to train as a combat infantryman in preparation for the D-Day Invasion.

During his service, he was assigned to the 385th Regiment, 76th Infantry Division of Patton's 3rd Army. He fought at the Battle of the Bulge and assisted the 45th Infantry Division with the liberation of prisoners at the Dachau concentration camp.

He received both a rifle wound from a German sniper and a mortar shrapnel wound during his service. Mr. Hall received the following decorations and citations: American Theater Service Medal, EAME Service Medal with three bronze service stars, World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantryman Medal, and two Purple Heart medals.

He received qualifications as a sharpshooter with the 30 caliber carbine, expert with the M1 (Garand) Rifle, and marksman with the 45 caliber pistol.

After the end of World War II in 1945 he returned to the United States and was stationed to then Fort Bragg, now Fort Liberty, where he served as a section leader in

the 12th Infantry. He received an Honorable Discharge on January 19, 1946.

Harris M. Hall married Norma Rimmer on November 20, 1948, in Alamance County, North Carolina. Their first child was born in 1949 but passed away after one day of life. In 1952, the couple welcomed their first child, a daughter, and three years later, a son was born. In 1957, they purchased 35 acres of land in a rural part of the county, which had previously been used as a dairy farm. In 1958, they welcomed me as their second daughter, and four years later, they completed their family with a third daughter.

On the land they had purchased, Harris and his wife renovated the two-story farmhouse and planted an apple orchard, peach, plum, and cherry trees, as well as muscadine and blackberries. He also cleared a large area to start the family's vegetable garden. He and his children fenced two separate pastures to raise beef cattle. Yes, the children participated in all aspects of farming; from planting to weeding, harvesting, and preserving a wide variety of vegetables. Myself and my siblings all learned to drive a Jeep by the time we were 13 years old so that we could help with transporting food and hay. Harris did not believe in pesticides, which was not a common thought at that time, but instead, he planted "companion plants" and raised all the family's food in what would be considered organic farming today. Ryegrass and fescue were planted to harvest and store in a large barn on the property to feed the cattle during winter.

While maintaining the family farm, Harris worked at Western Electric, later Lucent Technologies, for 35 years, as an engineer, and his job involved several high-level clearance projects for the United States Government during the Cold War and Cuban Missile Crisis. His job was never discussed during those years, as he was required to sign a non-disclosure agreement about the sensitive nature of the design work he performed. Harris retired from Lucent Technologies in 1988 and spent his remaining years traveling to various U.S. destinations with his wife, farming a very small garden, and enjoying time with his children and grandchildren.



*Shown left to right are Harris Hall, Sr., Terry Vangen, Mark Annin, and Lowel Landis at the 2003 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reunion in Charlotte, North Carolina.*

In 2003, my husband, Dennis, and I took my father and mother to the annual 76th Infantry Division Reunion in Charlotte, North Carolina. There, my father reunited with several of the men in his squadron after almost 60 years. After this reunion, Harris, and his former lieutenant, who lived in Montana, maintained an email friendship for the rest of his life.

In 2007, Harris lost my mother, the love of his life, and two years later, on March 26, 2009, he passed away peacefully, with his children by his side.