

**Nicholas Ickes Hench**, Patriot, Monday, March 11, 1918. Nicholas Hench Dies at Carlisle. Man who gave First Credit to F. W. Woolworth – Fought in Many Big Battle of Civil War.

On Sunday morning at the residence of his daughter, **Mrs. Guy H. Davies**, of Carlisle, whom he had been paying a brief visit, **Nicholas I. Hench**, aged 81, of this city, died calmly and painlessly while asleep.

While he had not been in good for some little time, he had recently seemed much stronger and his letters home were bright and cheerful.

Mr. Hench represented an element in Harrisburg that is fast passing away. He stood for the sturdy, conservative, upright business methods of an earlier generation.

The son of **Nicholas** and **Catherine Hamilton Hench**, he was born in Ickesburg, Perry County, January 17, 1837. He was educated in the schools of Perry County, and later taught there. As a member of the 12<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Reserves he served a full enlistment in the Civil War, taking part in many of the most brilliant battles. While always willing to talk about the war itself, he was remarkably reticent relating his personal part but letters in the possession of a daughter show graphically his experiences at Gettysburg where he saw his brother [Corporal **Frank Hamilton Hench**] killed and bore the body to the rear of Big Round Top. Mr. Hench saw the thick of that historic light from his place to the right of Little Round Top, and later on, in front of Devil's Den from which a sally was made that gave his regiment possession of Big Round Top, and that fact is now commemorated by a monument there to the 12<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Reserves.

On February 14, 1866 he was married to **Ann Ellen Weakley** of Carlisle, and then opened a general store in Blain, Perry County. Four years later he formed a business partnership with the late William P. Stuart and came to Harrisburg, engaging in the wholesale notion business under the firm name of Hench and Stuart, The new company occupied the building then known as Brant's Hall, where the Commonwealth Trust Company is now located.

Backed F. W. Woolworth. While thus engaged in business in this city he lent a sympathetic ear to the plea of F. W. Woolworth, the 5 and 10 cent wizard, who was planning to open his first store of the kind in Lancaster. He wanted credit, and appealed to Mr. Hench. To almost every one, the scheme seemed chimerical, but Mr. Hench saw in the idea "good business" and gave him the credit which he then needed badly. The amount would not seem large today, but in that long-ago it seemed a great amount to risk on a hazardous hair-brained scheme.

Equable in disposition, self controlled, honest and fearless, Mr. Hench possessed the fundamental characteristic of the old pioneers, whom in many ways he resembled greatly. He is survived by his wife.

**Nicholas I. Hench**, Patriot, Tuesday, March 12, 1918

HENCH – **Nicholas I. Hench**, aged 81 years.

Funeral services at his late residence, 1015 North Front Street, on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment private.

**Nicholas I. Hench**, Patriot, Tuesday, March 12, 1918

Nicholas I. Hench. Funeral services for **Nicholas I Hench**, one of the city's oldest merchants, who died Sunday at the home of his daughter, **Mrs. Guy I. Davies**, of Carlisle, will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock at his residence, 1015 North Front Street. The Rev. Dr. George Edward Hawes, pastor of the Market Square Presbyterian Church, will officiate. Private burial will be made in the East Harrisburg Cemetery.