

A Journey Through Time

The **TIMES** Chronicle



By Linda Reno
Contributing Writer

Richard Henry Alvey, son of George Nicholas Alvey and Elizabeth Harriett Weaklin, was born in St. Mary's County on March 6, 1826. He received his early edu-

cation from his father, who was a teacher. According to Dr. J. Roy Guyther, he later graduated from Charlotte Hall School.

In 1844, at age 18, he was appointed deputy clerk of the court in Charles County. He studied law in his off time and in 1849 was admitted to the bar in Charles County. In early 1850 he moved to Washington County, MD where he advanced his career and lived quietly until the war.

"While Judge Alvey, in common with a very large majority of the people of Maryland at the beginning of the sectional troubles in 1860, felt that many of the grievances of the South were well founded, and that there was no constitutional authority for a war of coercion, he never believed in the doctrine of secession, and never advocated the extreme and unwise measures adopted by the Southern States.

The idea of hostile invasion of one section of the country by another seemed to the great majority of the people of Maryland at that time as nothing less than the total subversion of the fundamental principles of the union of States. When the civil war broke out, Judge Alvey sympathized with the South, and at a public meeting at Hagerstown, when Lincoln was declared elected, he gave his views on the right of a State to secede [called the Alvey Resolution].

On the 2d of June, 1861, immediately after the arrival of the Union army at Hag-

erstown, he was arrested in his office at night by a military squad upon the charge (which was totally unfounded) that he was holding communication with the enemy, and taken to the headquarters of the army, where he was treated with great rudeness and indignity. After being closely confined in Hagerstown for several days he was sent to Fort McHenry, at Baltimore, from there to Fort Lafayette, New York, and thence to Fort Warren, in Boston Harbor, where he was detained, with the other Maryland State prisoners until the following February when he was allowed to return home upon parole."

In 1867 Judge Alvey served as the Chairman of the Committee on Representation to the Constitutional Convention of Maryland. He also served as Chief Judge, Washington,

The average person falls asleep in seven minutes. **Fun Fact**



Allegany, and Garrett Counties Circuit Court, Fourth Judicial Circuit and as Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals from 1867-1883; and as Chief Judge, from 1883-1893.

He was appointed by President Cleveland as Chief Justice, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, 1893-1904 and in 1896 he was appointed by the President to serve as a member of the U.S. Commission to settle a boundary dispute between Venezuela and British Guiana. He then served as Chancellor, National University, Washington, D.C., from 1897-1904. Judge Alvey was awarded honorary LL. D. degrees from Princeton

University and St. John's College.

Judge Alvey was married twice and had 10 children. He died in Hagerstown, MD on September 14, 1906.