

[Merritt, Edwin Atkins]

GENERAL MERRITT WAS WELL-KNOWN HERE
Thrown on His Own Resources as Youth,
He Worked His Way Up to Many Prominent Positions

General Edwin A. Merritt, who died yesterday, was well known here not only because of his son, who was a speaker for the Assembly and later a representative in Congress, but because of his own record. His career is an illustration of the best features of American social and political life.

Thrown on his own resources as a youth he opened an office as surveyor in St. Lawrence county and worked his way slowly upward to the Legislature in 1859. He was re-elected by the Republicans in 1860 but at the outbreak of the Civil war in 186[1] he enlisted in the Sixtieth New York regiment, serving with the Army of the Potomac.

After being made quartermaster general of this state in 1865, General Merritt established free agencies for the collection of bounties, back pay and pensions due to New York volunteers. In 1869 he was appointed naval officer of the New York port. In 1867 he served as a member of the constitutional convention.

One of the founders of the Republican party in New York state and an active organizer for many years, General Merritt was rewarded by President Grant with the post of surveyor of the port of New York, and by President Hayes, in 1878, with the collectorship of the port, succeeding the future President Chester A. Arthur. The fact that Arthur, who was a "Stalwart" and one of Roscoe Conkling's lieutenants was not reappointed as collector of the port, helped him to secure the nomination as vice president.

General Merritt is survived by a brother, W. W. Merritt of Iowa; his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Edwin A. Merritt, widow of Speaker Merritt; a granddaughter Edith Merritt; and a niece, Mrs. William Whitman of Slingerlands.

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FUNERAL OF GEN. MERRITT

Members of the Faculty of Potsdam School Act as Bearers

Potsdam, Dec. 29.—The funeral of General Edwin A. Merritt was held from his home in Leroy street in this village at half past one. The house was crowded to its capacity, a large number of people from out of town being present.

A quartet consisting of Mrs. P. R. Whitney, Miss Ruth Scott, Professor Molson Taylor and Louis H. Sisson sang two hymns, "Lead, Kindly Light" and "Father, In Thy Keeping." The Rev. D. L. Fisher of the Universalist church read the Scripture. The Rev. I.[Isaac] M. Atwood of the Theological School of St. Lawrence University delivered a short eulogy and offered prayer. The Rev. Mr. Fisher pronounced the benediction.

General Merritt was of such a large frame that it was necessary to get an extra size coffin for the body. The casket was covered with black broadcloth and silver mounted.

The bearers were all from the faculties of Clarkson College and Potsdam Normal School and were Professors Carl Mitchel, Nelson Taylor, L. D. [?ggart], William Chriswell, Frederick D. Wilson and H. M. Royal.

The honorary bearers were Assemblyman E. A. Everett, Assemblyman [?] L. Seaker, Congressman Burton Snell, Dr. J. M. Thompson, principal of the Potsdam Normal School, Dr. F. A. Gallup, President of St. Lawrence University, Dr. L. H. Sweet, Dr. F. L. Dewey, H. J. Sanford, R. L. Sisson, and R. Porter Johnson.

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