

[Merritt, Eliza Rich]

SPEAKER MERRITT'S MOTHER DEAD

Wife of Gen. Merritt and Mother of Speaker Merritt—A Most Estimable Woman

Potsdam, March 1.—Although she had been ill for the past week of a cold which developed into pneumonia, the death of Mrs. Edwin A. Merritt, wife of General Merritt, which occurred at 3 this morning has shocked the village and caused deep grief in many homes where she was well known. Not until within the past day or two had her condition been considered critical, and her son, Speaker Merritt, had not been informed of the seriousness of her illness. He was on his way home to attend the meeting of the Republican county committee of which he is chairman at Canton today when he was informed at Dekalb Junction of his mother's death.

Mrs. Merritt was a woman of most beautiful character and generous disposition. She distributed her kindness with a lavish hand and was a friend of the poor and unfortunate. Mrs. Merritt lived to the grand old age of 84 and was a true and noble woman. A consistent member of the Universalist church, she was always foremost in advancing its teachings. Her maiden name was Eliza Rich and she was united in marriage to General Merritt in 1858. Five children blessed the union, the only surviving one being Speaker Edwin A. Merritt of the New York State Assembly.

About two years ago Gen. and Mrs. Merritt celebrated the golden jubilee or 50th anniversary of their marriage and it was a most notable event in the life of this village. She had been a resident here for over [?] years.

The funeral will take place from her late home at 11 Monday morning and interment will be had in the Potsdam cemetery.

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