

[Merritt, Jessie F.]

MISS JESSIE MERRITT

Miss Jessie Merritt, well known resident of the town of Pierrepont, died at her home Friday, July 21st, after an illness of many months. The funeral services were held from the family home on Sunday, Rev. C. H. McVey of Crary Mills Church officiating. Interment was in the Martin Ridge cemetery, Pierrepont.

Jessie F. Merritt was born in the town of Pierrepont June 1, 1862, the daughter of Darwin and Hannah Smead Merritt. Her ancestors were of the sturdy pioneer stock who migrated to St. Lawrence county from Vermont and she had spent a great share of her life on the old Merritt homestead where, in her last illness she was tenderly cared for by her nephew Darwin Whitman and wife. This nephew has lived with her from infancy.

She was a niece of the late General Merritt of Potsdam and the last surviving member of a family of four, one of whom died while very young. The eldest sister Julia died in 1909, and the youngest, Jennie Merritt Whitman of Canton died in 1929.

In 1889 Miss Merritt was graduated from St. Lawrence University. Previous to that time she had taught in the rural schools of this vicinity and afterward she taught in Plattsburg High School and Canton High School. The ill health of her parents necessitated her giving up her career to return home. For 18 years she devoted her entire life to them. After their death she again taught in a Pierrepont rural school.

Her life has been one of service to her family and the community. She was a member and for some time Lecturer of Crary Mills Grange No. 54 and a member of the Universalist Church of Canton. She was intensely interested in education, politics and all civic improvement and her dignity and courage has made a lasting impression upon the lives of all with whom she was associated.

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Transcribed on 11 Jun 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY