

Red Hook Journal.

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Red Hook, N. Y.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1907.

Mrs. Jacob W. Elseffer.

The death of Mrs Elseffer which occurred last Saturday evening at her home cast a dark shadow over our village and universal sorrow was freely expressed. Mrs. Elseffer had lived in our midst for 47 years and had endeared herself to all who knew her by her kindness, courtesy and ~~and~~ womanhood. Harriet Eliza Mesick Elseffer came from ancestry distinguished prior to the Revolution. Hendrick Mesick being Captain of Troops in the Manor of Livingstone Province of New York. She was the daughter of Frederick Mesick and Joanna Latting. Her great grandfather, Peter Mesick, came from Holland in 1709, and settled in the Camps, now Germantown, purchasing a large tract of land near Glenco. Later he removed to Claverack where his descendants have been and are still prominent in the religious, social and political life of that community. Mrs Elseffer was graduated at Claverack College and always retained a deep interest in her native village. She was a woman of marked literary and social attainments and had a large circle of friends extending through many states. She was a member of the Society of Colonial Dames and eligible to the Societies of the Revolution. She was a devoted member of Christ Church, Red Hook, and died as she had lived, serene in her unflinching faith. She is survived by her husband to whom the people with whom he has lived so long, will give their heartfelt sympathy. The funeral was held from her late residence and was largely attended. The services were conducted by the Rev. R. V. K. Harris, Rector of Christ Church, assisted by the Rev. E. P. Mills, Rector of

St. Luke's Church, Catskill, and the Rev. D. W. Lawrence, Pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran (Stone) Church, Rhinebeck. The interment was in the Lutheran cemetery of this village.

A TRIBUTE.

In the death of Mrs. J. W. Elseffer the Parish of Christ Church loses a most devoted and loyal member. Hers was a true christian character, filled with unselfishness, generosity and kindness, and the work of the church was near to her heart. In it she took the greatest pleasure. She was the Secretary of the Parish Branch of the Woman's Auxillary to the Board of Missions and had been Vice-President of the Dutchess County Committee. She had been for years a member of the Entertainment Committee of the Parish. She was a charter member of the Altar Guild of the Parish and it was her special ambition to provide the flowers for the altar of the church so long as flowers bloomed in the garden from early May till late into November. She planted and watched and picked them herself, and took great pride in adorning the sanctuary of God. For to the church she was devoted, rarely absent from its services, most regular in her attendance at the early celebration of the Holy Communion, taking the greatest comfort in the church's ministrations and especially so during the last weeks of illness. But these things which are outward ministered to the development of her character and were a real inspiration and uplift in her spiritual life. It will be hard to fill her place in the many forms of christian service but it has been our gain to have had the influence of her active and steadfast faith which can not but have left a lasting impress on the church which she loved, and upon those who were associated with her in life.

R. V. K. HARRIS.