

A WEDDING AMID FLOWERS

THE MARRIAGE OF MISS ASTOR AND MR. WILSON.

MANY PRINCELY PRESENTS—A NECKLACE THAT COST \$75,000—BEAUTIFUL EX-AMPLES OF WORTH'S ART.

The principal social event of the season took place yesterday afternoon. It was the marriage of Miss Caroline Schermerhorn Astor, the youngest and only remaining unmarried daughter of Mr. William Astor, to Mr. Marshall Orme Wilson, a son of Mr. R. T. Wilson, the banker and railroad magnate. The ceremony was performed at 3:30 o'clock in the spacious art gallery at the residence of the bride's father, No. 350 Fifth-avenue, by the Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, the Rector of Trinity Church. The bridal party embraced, besides the bride and her father, eight bridesmaids and as many ushers, and the ceremony was witnessed by nearly a thousand guests.

As the guests entered the house their eyes were dazzled by an extraordinary display of floral decorations. A tropical luxuriance of foliage and a wealth of color greeted the eye at every turn. Palms and ferns and creeping plants, roses and orchids, lilies and violets, carnations and marguerites, filled every part of the house, with cameos of color against a background of green. The two large vases in the main hall on either side of the entrance were filled with English ivy, trailing ferns, and large pink roses. The newel and lower part of the stairway balusters were completely enveloped in Japanese fern, studded with clusters of La France (large pink) roses. The large hall mirror, 12 feet wide and 20 feet high, was framed with a mass of roses of various colors, with their foliage attached, so as to produce the effect of natural growth, and the jardinières in front of the mirror were filled with similar roses attached to their branches. Behind the candelabra, opposite the mirror, was a bank of large palms and English ivy. The large marble statue beyond the stairway was trimmed with English ivy and Amazon lilies, and a screen of large palms concealed part of the orchestra that played as the guests entered the mansion. The large vase in the furthest right-hand corner of the hall was filled with all the different varieties of choice roses in season.

In the front parlor at the left of the entrance were two large stands covered with carnations and their foliage, the one dark red, the other pale pink. Between the ornaments upon the mantel were two loose bunches of choice pink roses set off with the costly Farleyeuse fern. The chandelier was draped with the delicate Japanese fern and studded with precious orchids. Upon the table at the left of the entrance was a large basket of violets and marguerites. In the middle parlor the stands on either side of the window were filled with splendid pink and white roses with the foliage attached. Upon the divan beneath the chandelier reposed a large bush of lilacs, while the chandelier itself was trimmed with the vines of the scarlet passion flower and clematis.

In the rear or "blue parlor," the various sections of the bookcase were adorned with variegated bunches of the choicest roses, trimmed with vines and leaves of "cissus discolor." Beneath the picture on the same side of the room was a bunch of violets and white roses. The window opposite the bookcase was decorated with Farleyeuse fern and La France roses. Under the picture in the corner by the entrance to the dining room was a bank of Gloire de Paris roses and lilies of the valley. In the dining room, between the windows near the entrance, were stands covered with carnations of nine different shades, trimmed with English ivy. In each corner of the room was a handsome palm. The centre piece of the table, which was covered with a magnificent service of silver, was composed of lilies and large pink roses, while the end pieces were of red roses. Before each window in the hall, between the dining room and picture gallery, was a jardinière, filled with roses and maidenhair ferns. The two stands in this hall were covered with English ivy and rose-colored carnations.

In the picture gallery the most striking effect of floral decoration was about the fireplace, opposite the entrance. It was before this fireplace that the couple stood during the performance of the marriage ceremony. On either side of the fireplace was a huge pyramid of pink and white roses, "embowered in their own green leaves," while between the pyramids, concealing the wall above the fireplace, was a veil formed of lilies of the valley and pink roses interwoven. The fireplace itself was filled with maidenhair fern, and in the centre was a large bunch of Annunciation lilies. From this bunch of lilies vines radiated to the corners of the fireplace and to the pyramids on either side. The balcony over the entrance, where the orchestra was placed, was completely covered with palm leaves and Japanese ferns, studded with pink roses, and the wall below the gallery and around the door was decorated in the same manner, so as to produce the effect of growing plants and vines. The chandelier in the centre of the room was covered with masses of large pink roses, rose foliage, and Japanese ferns, and the four large candelabra at each corner of the room were decorated to correspond with the chandelier. The floral decorations were designed and executed by Klunder.

From the entrance of the picture gallery to the fireplace, where the bridal couple were to stand, a passageway was marked off by parallel lines of white silk ribbon, and on either side of this passageway the guests assembled to witness the ceremony. The bridal procession formed in the front parlor and proceeded by way of the main hall to the picture gallery. The bride, preceded by the ushers and her bridesmaids, was escorted to the altar by her father. Her dress consisted of a silver brocade front, representing clusters of roses, and a white satin train. The sides and front were trimmed with orange blossoms. Her veil was of old point lace, and was secured with diamond stars and orange blossoms. Her ornaments were a necklace of diamonds, given to her by the groom. She carried a bouquet of priceless white orchids, fringed with lilies of the valley. It is said that it would be impossible to duplicate the orchids in this bouquet to-day in this country.

The bridesmaids were Miss Marion Langdon, Miss Georgie Heckscher, Miss Hattie Welles, Miss May Robbins, Miss Fannie Swan, Miss Helen Beckwith, Miss Belle Wilson, a sister of the groom, and Miss Sallie Stewart. They wore white satin, trimmed with lace, and tulle veils secured with white ostrich tips. They carried bouquets of La France roses and lilies of the valley, and also presents from the bride—lace fans, with pearl handles, inlaid with gold.

The groom's best man was his brother, Mr. R. T. Wilson, Jr., and the ushers were Messrs. Brockholst Cutting, Reginald Rives, Woodbury Kane, J. J. Astor, Jr., a brother of the bride, H. Le Grand Cannon, John Firman, Lisenard Stewart, and Hamilton Fish Webster. In their scarfs they wore gold pins, set with diamonds and rubies, presents from the groom.

Mrs. William Astor, the bride's mother, wore white satin, with an overskirt of point lace. The waist of the dress was literally covered with diamonds.

Mrs. J. R. Roosevelt, a sister of the bride, wore pale pink satin, trimmed with point lace, and diamond ornaments.

Mrs. J. Coleman Drayton, the other sister of the bride, wore canary satin, brocaded with raised velvet flowers and trimmed with a lace bounce. Her ornaments also were diamonds.

After the ceremony and the subsequent reception by the bride and groom of the congratulations of their friends a collation was served in the dining room. Among the numerous guests were Mr. and Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Schermerhorn, Miss Schermerhorn, Mr. Augustus Schermerhorn, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Roosevelt, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Roosevelt, Mr. and Mrs. J. Coleman Drayton, Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Goelet, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goelet, Mr. Elbridge T. Gerry, Mr. and Mrs. George Henry Warren, Miss Warren, Mr. George Harry Warren, Mrs. Brockholst Cutting, Mr. and Mrs. W. Emlen Roosevelt, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Heckscher, Miss Heckscher, Mr. and Mrs. August Belmont, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Howland, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Lorillard, Mrs. Edward Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Newbold Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Newbold Morris, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Lorillard, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. W. Seward Webb, Mr. and Mrs. August Belmont, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Maturin Livingston, Mr. and Mrs. D. Ogden Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Remsen, Miss Remsen, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Oothout, Miss Oothout, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Drayton, Mr. G. Creighton Webb, Gen. and Mrs. McClellan, Miss McClellan, Mr. Augustus G. Gunee, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gunee, Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Beckwith, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. De Lancey Kane, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. William Remsen, the Misses Remsen, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. De Peyster, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Turnure, Miss Turnure, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. M. Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen H. Olin, Congressman Perry Belmont, Mr. J. Griswold, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hoyt, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Fellows, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Morgan, Ward McAllister, Miss McAllister, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. Columbus Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Jerome, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin, Mr. Reginald Francklyn, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lorillard, Mr. Frank Grey Griswold, Mr. Buchanan Winthrop, Mr. Armstrong Chanler, Mr. Winthrop Astor Chanler, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Neilson, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander H. Stevens, the Misses Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Neilson, Mr. and Mrs. John Kean, the Misses Kean, Mr. Isaac Iselin, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Fish, Mr. and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webster, Mr. Rutherford Stuyvesant, Mr. and Mrs. William M. Everts, Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor Johnston, Miss Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. William Remsen, the Misses Remsen, Mr. Peter Marié, the Misses Marié, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Travers, Miss Travers, Mrs. Parlan Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. William Rhineland Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Seward, the Misses Seward, Mr. Campbell Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. John Kane, Mr. S. Nicholson Kane, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Bronson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Belmont Purdy, Miss Purdy, Mr. Morgan Post, Mr. and Mrs. George G. Haven, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Lawrence, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Lanier, Mr. and Mrs. Thatcher M. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, Mr. E. W. Teller, Gen. and Mrs. Burnett, Mrs. Baylies, Miss Baylies, Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Matthews, the Misses Matthews, Mr. Center Hitchcock, Mr.

and Mrs. James Otis, Mrs. Alexander Van Rensselaer, Dr. and Mrs. Draper, Mrs. H. Le K. Emmett, Col. and Mrs. S. V. R. Cruger, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd S. Bryce, Mrs. Swan, Mr. and Mrs. Percy K. Pyne, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Tappen, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Whitney, Congressman and Mrs. Abram S. Hewitt, the Misses Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis M. Rutherford, Miss Rutherford, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rutherford, Mr. and Mrs. Pierrepont Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. James M. Waterbury, Dr. and Mrs. Octavius A. White, Dr. and Mrs. John Blake White, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan K. Stevens, Mr. Frederic W. Stevens, Miss Daisy Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Kemp, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Berryman, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Schieffelin, Miss Catherine Wolf, Assistant Bishop Potter and Mrs. Potter and the Misses Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Potter, Mr. and Mrs. James B. Potter, Lorillard Spencer, the Misses Spencer, Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts, Miss Endicott, Mr. Endicott, Mr. and Mrs. Francis R. Rives, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Sands, Robert L. Cutting, Jr., Gen. William Cutting, Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Pierrepont and Miss Pierrepont, of Brooklyn.

The presents were numerous, varied, and very valuable. Mr. Astor, the father of the bride, gave the young couple a handsome residence on Fifth-avenue, and Mr. Wilson, the father of the groom, gave the furniture and ornaments thereof. The other presents, consisting of jewels, gold and silver ware, articles of crystal, china, bronze, and many other things fitted for household use and adornment, were displayed upon a long crimson colored table in the rear parlor. Reference has already been made to the diamond necklace worn by the bride and given to her by the groom. The pendant consisted of a ruby, pearl, and sapphire, each surrounded by a cluster of large diamonds. The necklace and pendant together are said to have cost \$75,000.

Mrs. Astor gave the bride diamonds and other jewels, besides a pair of old English solid silver candelabra four feet high, four pairs of old English solid silver salt cellars, and a set of gold coffee spoons. Mr. Astor also gave his daughter a full set of diamond jewels. Mr. R. T. Wilson, the groom's father, also gave a full table service of silver knives, forks, and spoons. Mr. and Mrs. J. Coleman Drayton gave a set of silver trays. Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart presented her with a similar set; Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Goelet, a highly ornamented silver dessert set; "Helen and Rose," a silver coffee set; Miss Belle Wilson, a silver dessert set; Mr. Bird, a solid silver tray, engraved with the monogram of the couple; Miss Mary J. Robbins, a set of gold olive dishes; Miss Marion Langdon, a set of silver toilet bottles; Mr. William C. Maxwell, a silver necklace of rare Indian workmanship; the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Morgan Dix, a silver candlestick; Miss Whiting, a silver candlestick; Winthrop Astor Chandler, a silver bread basket; Gen. George W. Cullom, a pair of Venetian vases inlaid with gold, and Mr. Reginald W. Rives, a bronze statuette.

The bride's trousseau was brought from Paris, and was of Worth's most costly and artistic make. It includes two evening dresses of satin, with overskirts of tulle. One is pale pink, interwoven with threads of spun gold. The front of the skirt is arranged in folds, and looped up with rosettes of braided gold. The train is arranged in double box plaits from the waist. The corsage is of pink satin, cut décolleté. The other dress is a pale, sea green tulle, looped and fastened with clusters of pink roses. The front of the skirt is arranged in flat plaits and the train emerged from the bouffant drapery. The waist is also of tulle and ornamented with a corsage bouquet of pink roses. A shorter dinner dress is of black lace, profusely embroidered with jet beads. There is bouffant drapery at the back, the ends of which are brought forward and arranged on the front in plaits. Another dinner dress is composed of light and dark shades of peacock green velvet and Ottoman silk. The front of the skirt is covered with silk drapery with plaits and revers of velvet at the sides. The corsage is of plain velvet with a V-shaped opening under the throat, filled in with lace embroidered with rare pearls. The bride's traveling dress is of dark gray cloth, and designed by Redfern, the Parisian ladies' tailor. The skirt is plaited and the drapery is edged with steel passementerie and a fringe of pendant steel beads. The jacket is tight fitting, buttons close at the neck, and is trimmed to match the skirt. The hat is of gray velvet, and trimmed with red feathers. A muff of gray fur completes the costume.

MRS. WILSON'S WEDDING PRESENT.

Boston, Nov. 19.—A registered certificate of the city of Boston's 5 per cent. water loan for \$100,000, in favor of the United States Trust Company, of New-York, Trustee, for Caroline S. Astor, was issued to-day. This is a gift from William Astor, to his daughter, who was yesterday married to Marshall O. Wilson.

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MRS. ORME WILSON'S HOUSEWARMING

Entertainment at New Residence on East 64th Street.

Musicale Attended by Three Hundred Guests Follows a Dinner—Some of Those Present.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Orme Wilson gave last evening in their new home, 3 East Sixty-fourth Street, a musicale preceded by a dinner. The function was the first large entertainment in their new home, and served as a housewarming.

The house, which is built along dignified and severe lines, is copied from part of an old French palace, and is done in Caen stone. The entrance and the large halls of white marble, with their lofty ceilings and huge doors, give a remarkably imposing effect as one enters. Low, flat settles of old gilt upholstered in dull rose-colored velvet, and boxwood trees and palms relieve the coldness of the marble walls. A wide flight of marble stairs winds up from this main hall at the right to the second story, and the walls of this upper hall are covered with tapestries of especially rich coloring. On this floor, at the rear of the house, is the Louis Seize white and gold ballroom, with many mirrors done in the small-paned French style.

The dinner of last evening was served in the dining room on the first floor, which is entered through tall double doors that face the entrance hall.

Mrs. Wilson received her guests near the head of the wide marble steps on the second floor, and the musicale programme was rendered in the ballroom, one of the largest in New York. The floral decorations consisted simply of palms and ferns, and in the niches in the marble walls were vases of Spring flowers.

The musicale programme, which began about 10:30 and lasted until nearly midnight, was followed by a seated supper at small tables placed in the dining room and halls, each table having a basket of pink roses as a decoration. The programme was as follows:

Andante Cantabile.....Tschaikowsky
Kaltenborn Quartette.
Si j'étais jardinier.....Chaminade
L'EsclaveLalo
Mme. Louise Homer.
Non m'amate piu.....Tosti
Non t'amo piu.....Denza
Signor Caruso.
BonheurHartog
Kaltenborn Quartette.
Die Lorelei.....Liszt
Prospice. Poem by Browning.....Sidney Homer
Mme. Louise Homer.
Di Te.....Tiriadelli
RomanzaDe Leva
Signor Caruso.
Allegro Moderato.....Rubinstein
Kaltenborn Quartette.

Mr. Felix Motti was at the piano.

The guests at the Astor and Fish dinners came on to the musicale, and numbered about 300. Among the guests invited were:

Mrs. Astor,	Mr. and Mrs. Lucius
Mr. and Mrs. William	Wilmerding,
Alexander,	Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. and Mrs. I. Town-	Waterbury,
send Burden,	Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius
Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Ber-	Vanderbilt,
wind,	Mr. and Mrs. Frank
Col. J. J. Astor and	Witherbee,
Mrs. Astor,	The Misses Evelyn and
Mr. and Mrs. Cortlandt	Gwendolyn Burden,
Bishop,	Miss Rita Barbey,
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bur-	The Misses Claire and
den, Sr.,	Cornelia Bryce,
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bur-	The Misses Baldwin,
den, Jr.,	Miss Beatrice Bend,
Mr. and Mrs. E. L.	Miss Alice Babcock,
Baylies,	Miss Violet Cruger,
Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Cut-	Miss Helen Cutting,
ting,	Miss Ethel Crane,
Mr. and Mrs. Bayard	Miss Martha Coster,
Cutting,	Miss Grace Chapin,
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis	Miss Caroline Drayton,
Chanler,	Miss Caroline Duer,
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie	Miss Duncan Eliot,
Cotton,	Miss Marion Fish,
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred	Miss Janet Fish,
Chapin,	Miss Mabel Gerry,
Mr. and Mrs. Julien	Miss Julia Hoyt,
Townsend Davies,	Miss Hoffman,
Mr. and Mrs. Elisha	Miss Edith Hall,
Dyer, Jr.,	The Misses Howland,
Mr. and Mrs. J. R.	The Misses M. and C.
Drexel,	Harriman,
Dr. R. H. Derby and	Miss Theresa Iselin,
Mrs. Derby,	The Misses Fanny and
Mr. and Mrs. H. Le R.	Nora Iselin,
Emmet,	Miss Eleanor Jay,
Mr. and Mrs. Stuyve-	The Misses Kane,
sant Fish,	The Misses Kernochan,
Mr. and Mrs. C. G.	Miss Livingston,
Franklyn,	Miss Leary,
Mr. and Mrs. George	Miss Isabel May,
Gould,	The Misses Mary and
Mrs. R. Gambrill,	Lena Morton,
Mr. and Mrs. J. W.	The Misses Beatrice and
Gerard,	Gladys Mills,
Mr. and Mrs. J. H.	Miss May Newbold,
Hammond,	Miss Natica Rives,
Mrs. Robert Goelet,	Miss Eleanor Roosevelt,
Mr. and Mrs. William	Miss Cynthia Roche,
Jay,	Miss Helen Roosevelt,
Mr. and Mrs. Adrian	Miss Laura Swan,
Iselin, Jr.,	Miss Jesse Sloane,
Mrs. Richard Irvin,	The Misses Una and
Mr. and Mrs. De Lancey	May Soley,
Kane,	Miss Tiffany,
Mr. and Mrs. Pembroke	Miss Van Rensselaer,
Jones,	Miss Natalie Wells,
Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton	The Misses Winthrop,
Fish Kean,	Miss Caroline Wilmer-
Major Hall and Mrs.	ding.
Hall,	The Misses Welles,
Mr. and Mrs. H. S.	Comte Conrad von Hoch-
Lehr,	berg.
Mr. and Mrs. Henry B.	Marquis de Gellifet,
Livingston,	Lawrence Atterbury,
Mr. and Mrs. Philip	Edward Bulkley,
Lydig,	August Belmont,
Lord and Lady Munson,	Henry Sloane,
Mrs. Charles Marshall,	H. W. Bull,
Mr. and Mrs. Ogden	A. T. Burden,
Mills,	S. P. Blagden, Jr.,
Mr. and Mrs. Henry	C. K. Beekman,
May,	Francis C. Carley,
Mr. and Mrs. Newbold	Ogden Codman, Jr.,
Morris,	Gordon Fellows,
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mc-	C. R. E. Fairfax,
Vickar,	H. G. Gray,
Mrs. Frederic Neilson,	L. L. Gillespie,
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen	R. L. Gerry,
Olin,	Dennis M. Hare,
Mr. and Mrs. Charles	Francis Hamilton,
Oelrichs,	Robert Goelet,
Mrs. William Post,	Robert W. Goelet,
Mr. and Mrs. Henry	James H. Hyde,
Parish, Jr.,	Ernest Iselin,
Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw	Phoenix Ingraham,
Reld,	Marshall Kernochan,
Mrs. Arthur Paget,	George L. Kingsland,
Mr. and Mrs. G. L.	E. Victor Loew, Jr.,
Rives,	Stuyvesant Le Roy,
Mr. and Mrs. S. Dillon	J. F. D. Lanier,
Ripley,	Cambridge Livingston,
Commander Raymond	William Lehr,
Rodgers and Mrs.	Osman Latrobe,
Rodgers,	W. F. Morgan, Jr.,
Mr. and Mrs. T. J. O.	Benjamin Nicoll,
Rhinelanders,	Franklin Plummer,
Mr. and Mrs. William	R. F. Potter,
D. Sloane,	F. L. Polk,
Mr. and Mrs. W. R.	H. P. Robbins,
Stewart,	Reginald Ronalds,
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph	C. M. Robinson,
Stevens,	Moncure Robinson,
Mr. and Mrs. Byam	A. M. Robbins,
Stevens,	Ralph Ranlet,
Mr. and Mrs. Sydney	Francis Riggs,
Smith,	Lispenard Stewart,
Mr. and Mrs. J. R.	Baron Ernest Schilling,
Soley,	The Messrs. Sands,
Mr. and Mrs. F. B.	T. Suffern Taller,
Stevens, Jr.,	H. B. Taylor,
Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred-	W. P. Wainwright,
eric Tams,	C. H. Wainwright,
Mr. and Mrs. Howard	C. D. Wetmore,
Townsend,	The Messrs. B. and E.
Mr. and Mrs. Archibald	Winthrop,
G. Thacher,	H. P. Winthrop,
Mr. and Mrs. Egerton	Roman Baldwin,
Winthrop, Jr.,	H. G. Barbey,
Mr. and Mrs. F. Eger-	G. W. Smalley,
ton Webb,	

MRS. ASTOR DIES AT HER CITY HOME

Only Her Daughter, Mrs. M. Orme Wilson, with Her When the End Came Early Last Night.

HEART TROUBLE KILLED HER

Col. Astor and His Wife Had Left His Mother When the Last Sinking Spell Set In—Her Notable Career.

Mrs. William Astor, long leader of New York society, whose health had been precarious since the Summer of 1907 and who for the last three days had been critically ill at her home, 842 Fifth Avenue, died there last night at 7:30 o'clock.

Death, it was said, was due to a recurrence of the old heart trouble from which Mrs. Astor suffered in years gone by.

Immediately after Mrs. Astor's death several hundred telegrams were sent out to her friends throughout the country notifying them that the end had come. No arrangements for the funeral, it was said, have yet been made.

At her bedside, when the end came, besides the three physicians who had been attending her for the last few days—Dr. Austin Flint, Jr., Dr. J. F. Nagle, and Dr. John S. Billings, and the nurses—was only her daughter, Mrs. Marshall Orme Wilson, representing Mrs. Astor's family. Her son, Col. John Jacob Astor, and his wife, had been in the sick chamber almost unceasingly yesterday, and were with the sick woman during part of the early evening. It chanced, however, that neither was present when the last sinking spell occurred.

Other members of the Astor family were hurrying to this city, but none reached here in time. Mrs. James L. Van Alen, daughter of Mrs. Astor, was one of these. She was notified of her mother's serious condition yesterday, and left Newport with her husband last night. Mrs. George Ogilvie Haig of London, another daughter, is on her way to this country, but it is feared that she may not reach here even in time for the funeral.

Mrs. Astor, before her death, had been unconscious for hours. Early in the afternoon she lapsed into this state and never awoke from it.

Mrs. Astor's death was sudden, but was not unexpected by her physicians. Dr. Flint had been in charge of the patient for the last four weeks when the recurrence of her old trouble first manifested itself, and within the last few days he felt it necessary to call in Dr. Nagle and Dr. Billings. Since then some one of the three physicians, and at times all of them, had been in attendance upon Mrs. Astor, and yesterday the three physicians remained at her bedside all day.

Mrs. Astor was 78 years old, and her advanced age militated against the success of the physicians' efforts. Oxygen and other stimulants were administered, but without success, and it was realized that the fight to save her was hopeless.

Her death was the culmination of a nervous breakdown which began two years ago, in the Fall of 1906. At that time her health permanently gave way. In the following Summer her friends received their first intimation of the true seriousness of her condition when Col. Astor announced that his mother would not reopen Beechwood, her Newport villa, for the season.

It became known then that in the previous Summer Mrs. Astor, then in Paris, had been unusually active, shopping much in the Paris stores and expressing freely her intention of making the following season the liveliest that society had ever witnessed. She had made all plans to carry out her purpose when the first breakdown came.

She returned to America, and in Boston her breakdown became complete. She was brought to her home here, but her condition failed to show much improvement. She lived in practical seclusion except that on pleasant days she drove occasionally on the avenue and in the park, and once in a while visited the shops.

Four weeks ago her condition became critical. Since that time the decline in her health had been steady. At times she rested quietly, and for a moment there appeared to be some hope of her recovery. Another attack of the heart trouble, however, always followed the momentary rallies.

Mrs. Astor was not possessed of great wealth as the world rates riches now. Most of her income will cease with her death. By the will of her husband, William Astor, she held a life interest in his house and estate at Newport and the house and stables at 350 Fifth Avenue and in the site where the Waldorf-Astoria now stands.

She has also, by the terms of this will, aside from the annuity which her husband had settled on her before their marriage, an income of \$50,000 a year from a fund given for her life into the hands of his executors and trustees. A fund was also provided to pay all taxes on the real estate.

Mrs. Astor had also an inheritance from her father, Abraham Schermerhorn, who, however, was not wealthy. Nor was the annuity settled on her before marriage considerable, according to modern calculation. The value of the property she held for her lifetime, however, has increased tremendously since her husband's death.

MRS. ASTOR'S LIFE HERE.

For More Than Twenty Years She Reigned Over New York Society.

There are many who believe that with Mrs. Astor has passed away the last leader of New York society. No one, they say, will ever be able to occupy the place she filled, for the conditions in New York's upper set, which justified the term leader, with all it implied, and rendered the position almost as well established as though it had been provided for by the Constitution, have changed materially since this gifted and tactful woman ascended to it.

The place of leadership had virtually been created by the late Mrs. John Jacob Astor, who was Miss Gibbes. When she died, in 1884, the leadership came to Mrs. Astor, who, though a member of the wealthiest and socially most prominent family in the city, was not its head on the female side.

Mrs. Astor at the time of her death for more than twenty years had been the ac-

knowledgeable leader, with almost absolute power to make or mar the social destiny of those who sought her patronage. Her visiting list was the index of the socially elect. She ruled with strong hand and gentle, and there was none to dispute her sway, though her friends were wont to say that the most-compelling thing about Mrs. Astor was her kind and winning smile.

Tradition, wealth, and social accomplishments combined to enable her to hold her position as the head of New York society, when that society was passing through a perplexing era of transition which came with the rapid growth of fortunes in new hands and the newly rich clamoring at the gates.

Born Here Eighty Years Ago.

Mrs. Astor was born in this city some eighty years ago. Her maiden name was Caroline Schermerhorn. She was able to trace her ancestry as far back as 1636, when Jacob Janse Schermerhorn, the founder of her father's family in this country, settled on Manhattan Island. Mrs. Astor was a daughter of William Schermerhorn and a granddaughter of Henry White, who married Ann Van Courtlandt in Colonial days.

Her father was one of New York's merchant princes in the beginning of the last century. He lived in a palatial residence in Lafayette Place, which in those days, with Washington Square and lower Fifth Avenue, was the abode of the proud old families of the Knickerbocker set who formed the cream of New York society. There are still some old New Yorkers who remember and are fond of reciting the circumstances of Miss Schermerhorn's coming-out ball. This event of some time in the forties—was much talked of in fashionable circles of that day.

As a girl Mrs. Astor was attractive in feature and manner. She was tall, of striking figure and dignified demeanor. She possessed that sweet and kindly expression of face, which was further enhanced and softened as she grew older, and remained one of her chief charms throughout life.

It was soon after her debut in society that Miss Schermerhorn married William Astor, one of the wealthiest men in the country. The Astor wealth was invested largely in land on Manhattan Island, and the constantly rising values of real estate in a section that was in a process of transformation from a wilderness to the residential quarters of a big city tended to swell the fortune immensely. Miss Schermerhorn had a good-sized fortune of her own, which was separately invested and so well cared for that it increased to large proportions. Twenty years ago Mrs. Astor's private income was estimated at \$250,000 a year.

Her Old Residence.

Where the Astoria part of the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria was raised later stood the upper one of the two large mansions of the Astor family. In this house Mrs. Astor lived during many years of her married life and social supremacy. Here her husband died in 1892, leaving the bulk of his great fortune to his son, John Jacob Astor. Soon after Mr. Astor's death Mrs. Astor removed from the red brick mansion at Thirty-fourth Street and Fifth Avenue, and took up residence jointly with her son and his family in the double white marble house that had been erected for them in Fifth Avenue, just above Sixty-fifth Street.

With the ample fortune of her husband and herself and the combined prestige of the names of Astor and Schermerhorn, Mrs. Astor soon after her marriage took a leading position in New York society. She came to the front as a lavish entertainer at her town house, at her magnificent Newport residence, in Bellevue Avenue, and at her beautiful country place at Rhinebeck-on-the-Hudson. Her entertainments became notable for their originality not less than for their elegance.

Meanwhile Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Sr., was laying firm the foundation of that social throne which her gifted sister-in-law was destined to occupy with so much distinction to herself until the end of her days.

The late Mrs. John Jacob Astor, although not so fond of the gay world as Mrs. William Astor, and an older woman than she, held during her lifetime as female head of the house of Astor the rank of leader. She was accustomed to give a series of handsome banquets at her residence, at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-third Street, where the Waldorf part of the Waldorf-Astoria now stands, on three days a week during the winter seasons. In summer she presided over a Newport establishment, which, in the last years of her life, was Beaulieu, and after her death it was owned by her son, William Waldorf Astor, and was later occupied by the Potter Palmers of Chicago.

Mrs. John Jacob Astor cared comparatively little for dancing, but she gathered about her, in addition to the elite of the upper set, a brilliant assembly of literary and artistic people. Mrs. William Astor followed to a large extent the lines laid down by her sister-in-law, but in this respect she was unable to follow her lead. The lavish display and princely disregard of expenditure in entertaining which followed the advent of newcomers who shone largely by their wealth placed the social life of these latter days on a basis where this element was compelled to drop out, to the regret of many of the more discriminating members of the upper set.

Mrs. Astor's Associates.

In the public estimation there were associated with Mrs. Astor during the early years of her leadership Mrs. Adrian Iselin and Mrs. August Belmont. This trio of gracious women ruled New York society in a kindly and skillful manner for some years. But during it all Mrs. Astor was really the supreme head.

When Mrs. Astor ascended to the leadership she was fortunate in finding a friend and devotee in the late Ward McAllister. This writer possessed in an unusual degree social aptitude and the managerial skill to arrange details and settings for society's life.

Mrs. Astor early recognized his usefulness, and he was clever enough to appreciate Mrs. Astor's good qualities, and always deferred to her judgment. The two were always warm friends. Writers of a few years ago frequently alluded to Mrs. Astor as the Queen and Mr. McAllister as the Prime Minister of New York's social domain.

Together they were the arbiters of elegance during what in some respects may be adjudged the most brilliant era of New York's social life. Together they selected the "400" names for Mrs. Astor's visiting list, which afterward became the index of social excellence. When, later, the barriers were let down and 200 new names were added in deference to social exigencies, Mr. McAllister was no longer there to assist in the delicate task. The revision cost not a few heartburnings and jealousies.

Soon after she assumed her leadership Mrs. Astor found an opportunity to display the tact which stood her in such good stead throughout her many years of social supremacy. She was the first to recognize the right of the Vanderbilts to a place in fashionable New York society. The Vanderbilts then as now had immense wealth, but their leanings and ambitions had not been toward social distinction until Miss Alva Smith, now Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, who married William K. Vanderbilt, became a member of the family.

An Example of Her Tact.

In the winter of 1882-3 Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt was planning her famous costume ball, suggested by her guest, Lady Mandeville. There was great speculation as to whether Mrs. Astor would put the seal of her approval on this function by attending. Mrs. Vanderbilt early announced that she would not invite Mrs. Astor unless the latter called on her. Sides were taken, much bitter feeling was stirred up, and the episode fast developed into a sensation, when Mrs. Astor, with her usual kindly tact, solved the question by calling on Mrs. Vanderbilt. Thereupon the invitation was sent. It was said at the time that Mrs. Astor was induced to call by her younger daughter, Miss Caroline Astor, now Mrs. Orme Wilson, who was very desirous of going herself.

In 1892 the death of her husband, who had never taken much part in New York society life and who spent his summers in Europe and his winters in Florida, sent Mrs. Astor into mourning for two years. Just as she was emerging occurred the death of her daughter, which made it necessary for her to go again into retirement.

On her return to society Mrs. Astor found that great changes had taken place in New York's social world. Newcomers had rendered society a far too unwieldy body to hold together, conditions had become more complex, the lines of distinction were more loosely drawn or blurred altogether. Society was no longer one compact body since Mrs. Astor had been compelled to relax for a time her hold on the social scepter, but was divided into three or four distinct sets, each claiming equal prestige and either warring upon or holding aloof from the others.

When Mrs. Astor laid aside her mourn-

MRS. WILLIAM ASTOR.



Photograph From the Painting by Carolus Duran.

ing for her husband and daughter and once more began to entertain, therefore, it required all her tact and fine discrimination to avoid being drawn into the many factional differences in society and the many family complications that furnished one of the chief elements of discord. There had been a rupture a year or two before between herself and Mrs. August Belmont, Sr., owing to the fact that Mrs. Belmont resented Miss Caroline Astor's acting as godmother for her son's divorced wife, now Mrs. Rives.

Her first impulse upon returning to society was to assemble anew about her the old elements. She gave a large reception, to which all whose names were on her visiting list in earlier days were invited. But Mrs. Astor found that the younger and wealthier matrons, of whom her daughter-in-law, Mrs. John Jacob Astor, was one, were determined to keep society within narrower lines.

They had no use for the old members of society who formerly dined and danced in the Astor ballrooms, even though their names were linked intimately with the history of the city from its very genesis. Mrs. Astor realized that, in the last analysis, the strength of any ruler is derived from the consent of the subjects. So in this case she yielded, and by so doing rendered secure her social sway for the remaining days of her life.

Faithful to Her Task.

Even in the last few years of her life, when the increasing infirmities of advancing age rendered this a sore burden, Mrs. Astor until quite recently did not relax in the discharge of her social duties. Her life was regulated by inflexible laws. She arrived in New York the first week in October from Newport. Until the opening of the Metropolitan Opera season she received her many friends informally on Sundays. At the opera, where she occupied Parterre Box 7, she never failed to attend the first performance. Mrs. John Jacob Astor, her daughter-in-law, invariably was her guest, except when she was in mourning.

She made her appearance at 9 o'clock almost to the minute, and the arrival of Mrs. Astor, wearing all her magnificent jewels, was regarded as a proclamation that the New York season had been formally opened. Every loggionette in the house and opera glasses as well were trained on the Astor box, where, as an enthusiastic foreigner once expressed it, she sat looking "like a veritable Duchess and grande dame."

In December Mrs. Astor always gave a series of great dinners, and if there were any distinguished foreigners in town they were asked. Last year she gave a dinner and musicale early in November in honor of Prince Louis of Battenberg, and she also entertained Prince Henry of Germany at dinner when he visited this country in the early Spring some five years ago. The famous Astor gold plate was used as the service on these occasions. The floral decorations always consisted of American Beauty roses. Mrs. Astor introduced this flower to fashionable notice.

Her Annual Ball.

On the first Monday in January Mrs. Astor gave her annual ball, which was the one great social event of the year in New York society. On that evening the Astor box at the opera remained unoccupied, though the guests did not assemble in the Astor ballroom until after the performance. Mrs. Astor was very loyal to her friends, and at her ball were seen all the representatives of the fashionable set of older New York, even if they were bidden nowhere else.

Except on one occasion in recent years Mrs. Astor received alone, standing near the doorway of the great drawing room. The exception to this rule was two years ago, when Miss Knower, a debutante and the fiancée of her grandson, Henry Coleman Drayton, received with her. The Coleman Draytons had been discussed widely because of a divorce scandal, but there was none in society daring enough to look askance at one so signally honored by Mrs. Astor. It was recalled that a like honor had not been enjoyed by anybody since Miss Caroline Astor, the youngest daughter of the house, made her debut nearly twenty-five years before. The Knower-Drayton wedding took place late in the year.

In the first week of March Mrs. Astor invariably sailed for Europe, accompanied by a woman companion who had been with her for many years. After a short visit to London she went to Paris, where for many years she had an apartment on the Avenue des Champs Elysées. Mrs. Astor had a host of titled friends in Paris and was one of the few Americans who in the earlier days had the entrée to the salons of the Faubourg Saint-Germain, where the aristocracy lived.

A few musicales and dinners were given. The late Spring found Mrs. Astor at some quiet watering resort. In the last week of June she paid a brief visit to London, but in the first week of July she invariably sailed for home again.

Mrs. Astor at Newport.

Mrs. Astor always rested one day in New York, and then opened her Newport villa. Here she always gave a series of dinners, and in some years gave balls. Two years ago she gave a splendid mid-summer ball in Newport.

This year Mrs. Astor remained quietly in Paris until the last week in August, and on leaving New York after her return went to Boston. This is the first year she had not taken an active part in the Newport season. Three years ago Mrs. Astor, soon after her arrival home, went to Boston, where she was taken ill and was compelled to give up her Newport season and return to Europe and take the waters at a German spa.

In her mode of life Mrs. Astor was simple and frugal. She rose at 8 o'clock. For breakfast she partook only of tea and toast. Her luncheon was served at the same hour each day, and both at this and her dinner she ate sparingly. She generally retired early, and frequently disappeared at her balls after having greeted her guests, leaving her daughter and daughter-in-law to represent the family.

Although of distinguished appearance, Mrs. Astor always dressed simply but richly in black silk and lace. Her dia-

monds were among the finest in the country. She had a stomacher of superb stones, a set of great stars, innumerable necklaces, and several magnificent tiaras. She cared little for any other gems but diamonds and pearls. Her carriage was a modest brougham; she never drove in a victoria or a landau.

Mrs. Astor had certain prejudices which she cherished to the end of her days. She had a horror of being photographed, and the only picture of her in existence is the orthodox one painted by Carolus Duran many years ago. She never attended a wedding in daytime for fear of being photographed, and never went out in Newport without wearing a heavy veil. For the same reason she shunned the Horse Show. She appeared at that function only once—five years ago for half an hour in the afternoon—with a granddaughter, Miss Helen Roosevelt, now Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt Robinson. The occasion was that of the young woman's first Winter in society.

Carefully Avoided Scandal.

Mrs. Astor kept in touch with the topics of the times, and was well read and highly cultured. During the long years of her social supremacy she retained an uncommon degree of popularity, the secret of which, it was frequently remarked, lay in the fact that she never spoke ill of any person and did not condescend to gossip of her associates.

Her chief characteristics were a gracious kindness, a rare social discrimination, and thorough self-restraint. She never lost her temper and preserved complete self-control even in the most trying situations. When scandals were told her she generally deprecated them, was loath to express an opinion, and when curious or intrusive people tried to get her to range herself on one side or another of some social question she generally heard them out without comment, and then changed the subject.

Mrs. Astor was always very tenacious of the title of "Mrs. Astor" after the death of her sister-in-law, and was offended if her friends and acquaintances, and even the newspapers, alluded to her as Mrs. William Astor. Her claim was disputed by William Waldorf Astor and his wife. Their claim to the title lay in the fact that Mrs. W. W. Astor was the female head of the older branch of the house of Astor, but Mrs. Astor disputed the claim and held that she as the older woman should have precedence. The wife of William Waldorf Astor, who was of a very gentle disposition, was probably very much averse to the controversy, but it continued until the latter's death, and became the object of much adverse newspaper comment, which culminated when Mrs. Astor gave a dinner at her New York house at the time the funeral of Mrs. William Waldorf Astor was held in London. This was bitterly resented by William Waldorf Astor, and has never been explained to the full satisfaction of Mrs. Astor's many friends and admirers.

Mrs. Astor's Charity.

Mrs. Astor was charitable in an unostentatious way. She preferred to bestow her charities through the organized societies. She was particularly interested in the New York hospitals. On each succeeding anniversary of the wedding days of her daughters, Mrs. Astor gave bounteous dinners to the patients in the hospitals, and at Thanksgiving and Christmas her contributions to worthy charities were liberal and systematic.

She was kind to her servants. She kept about her the same personal attendants. Her butler had been with her for many years, and only last year a housekeeper died at Red Bank, N. J., who had been retired on an annual pension and had paid one of her yearly visits to Mrs. Astor just before her death.

Trouble involving the name of one of her daughters came to mar the life of both Mrs. Astor and her husband. Her third daughter, Miss Augusta Astor, married J. Coleman Drayton of Philadelphia in the late seventies and was divorced from him a few years ago to marry Mr. Ogilvie Haig, a wealthy Englishman, who died suddenly at Chester, England, last year. When William Astor died he virtually cut off Mrs. Drayton. Mrs. Astor always stood by her loyalty, and it is said she never forgave her son-in-law for the publicity he brought about in the matter. A series of efforts were made by Mrs. Astor to help her daughter in society. The year after her divorce she gave a great entertainment in her honor at her Newport establishment. But New York society assumed a frigid attitude toward Mrs. Drayton, which not even the great popularity of her mother could overcome. At last Mrs. Drayton went to England, where she married Mr. Haig.

Her Children.

Mrs. Astor is the last of her family. All the children of the late Abraham Schermerhorn are dead, and most of them died at an advanced age. One of her sisters married John Treat Irving, who was the brother of Washington Irving, and who was graduated from Columbia in 1829. He died last winter. He left two daughters and a son. The late William Schermerhorn, Augustus Schermerhorn, and Mrs. Auchmuty are cousins.

Mrs. Astor's descendants are as follows: Miss May Van Alen, Mrs. Robert Collier, and J. Laurens Van Alen, who married Miss Daisy Post. These are the children of her eldest daughter, Emily, who was the wife of J. J. Van Alen.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt Robinson and J. Roosevelt, Jr. These are children of J. Roosevelt-Roosevelt and Miss Helen Astor, the second daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Coleman Drayton (Miss Constance Knower, daughter of Mrs. Benjamin Knower) and Miss Caroline Drayton, children of J. Coleman Drayton, who married Miss Augusta Astor, the third daughter. There was no issue from her marriage with Ogilvie Haig.

The fourth daughter, who is Mrs. M. Orme Wilson, has three sons, none of whom is of age.

Col. John Jacob Astor from his marriage with Miss Ava Willing has two children, Vincent Astor, who is about 14 years old, and a daughter born three years ago.

MRS. ASTOR LEFT ONLY GEMS TO SON

Her Will Makes Mrs. Wilson and
Mrs. Haig, Her Daughters,
Her Chief Beneficiaries.

\$5,000 TO HER BUTLER

Similar Sum to Blind Asylum—She
Considered Col. J. J. Astor Fully
Provided for by His Father.

John E. Parsons, who has charge of the will of Mrs. William Astor, made public yesterday an abstract of it which shows that practically the whole estate is left to her two daughters, Mrs. Marshal Orme Wilson and Mrs. George Ogilvy Haig. To Col. John Jacob Astor, her son, and now head of the Astor family, is left nothing except a selection of family jewelry, as he was fully provided for by his father, William Astor.

It was expected that the will would be filed for probate with the Surrogate, but this was not done. It is understood, however, that it may be offered in Newport, R. I. Mr. Parsons said he could give no estimate of the size of Mrs. Astor's estate. The two daughters, he said, received the residuary estate in equal shares.

Mrs. Astor's estate, which consisted chiefly of her heritage from her father, Abraham Schermerhorn, is not so large as might be imagined. Under her husband's will she received an income of \$50,000 a year for life, and a life possession of the Astor town house at Fifth Avenue and Sixty-fifth Street, the house at Newport, and one in Paris. Apparently there is no bequest to any of the Van Alens.

This is the statement given out by Mr. Parsons:

"Mrs. Astor's will is dated Jan. 20, 1903. She left a codicil dated Dec. 19, 1904. By her will she appoints as her executors her son, John Jacob Astor; her son-in-law, Marshal Orme Wilson, and William M. Cruikshank.

"She leaves \$5,000 to her butler, Thomas Hade, if in her employment at the time of her death, and to the Asylum for Destitute Blind \$5,000.

"By her codicil Mrs. Astor leaves to her son certain specified jewelry.

"With the above exceptions, all her property is left to or in trust for the benefit of her daughters, Mrs. Charlotte A. Haig and Mrs. Caroline S. Wilson, and their descendants. If it should so happen that there should be no descendant of her daughters, the residuary estate is given to William Vincent Astor, son of her son, John Jacob Astor. Mrs. Astor's will contains this clause:

"'I desire my son, who receives no part of my estate, to understand that it is not from any want of affection that I have made this exception, but because he has been fully provided for by his father.'"

NEW CAT CEMETERY OPENED

Bide-a-Wee Pets Moved to New Home Bought by Mrs. Orme Wilson.

Special to The New York Times.

WANTAGH, L. I., July 10.—Workers connected with the Bide-a-Wee Home at 410 East Thirty-eighth Street, New York, are completing the work of removing their cat and dog charges from the place they have rented at Freeport for the Summer domicile for a number of years to their new Summer home at this place, the purchase of which has been made possible by a gift of \$3,000 from Mrs. Orme Wilson.

There are fifteen acres of the new property, five of which will be devoted to an animal cemetery similar to the one in Hyde Park, London. Twenty-five dollars buys a permanent plot in the cemetery.

The gift of Mrs. Wilson was made as a living memorial to Pansy, a little griffon bruxellois of whom she was very fond. Among those who have taken plots in the animal cemetery are:

Miss Florence Ferguson, Mrs. E. K. Robinson, Dr. Richard T. Bang, Mrs. Julia F. Rogers, Dr. R. Ottolengui, Mrs. A. V. T. Billington, Mrs. George H. Gould, Mrs. H. U. Kibbe, Mrs. W. Orr Barclay, Miss Eleanor Hartshorne, Mrs. E. L. Ludlow, Miss Mary Latimer, Frank K. Sturgis, Miss Margaret H. Garrard, Miss Emily Stevens, Mrs. Winfield Scott, Mrs. H. K. Pomroy, Miss Louise Castree, Jefferson Seligman, Mrs. F. M. Wilson, Mrs. J. B. Dickson, Mrs. Jasper Lynch, Miss Vera Cravath, Mrs. H. M. Day, Mrs. Phillips A. Clark, Miss Ellen Glasgow.

The New York Times

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Mrs. M. Orme Wilson Entertains.

Mrs. M. Orme Wilson entertained last night at her town house, 3 East Sixty-fourth Street, with a dinner, followed by a musicale. The guests included many of the young married people, and Mme. Barrientos, the Spanish coloratura soprano of the Metropolitan Opera Company, sang.

The New York Times

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MRS. GEORGE O. HAIG DIES AT NEUILLY

**Former Charlotte Astor Expires,
with Her Sister, Mrs. M. Orme
Wilson, at Bedside.**

ONCE MRS. J. C. DRAYTON

**Disinherited by Her Father, William
Astor, Her Brother, Colonel J. J.
Astor, Gave Her \$1,000,000.**

PARIS, July 30.—Mrs. George Ogilvy Haig of London, who before her marriage was Miss Charlotte Astor, died in the American Hospital at Neuilly at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon. Mrs. Marshall Orme Wilson of New York City, her sister, was at the bedside.

As Miss Charlotte Augusta Astor, the daughter of Mrs. William Astor, and sister of Colonel John Jacob Astor, she was known as one of the most beautiful young women in the New York society of forty years ago.

When about twenty years old New York society was startled by the announcement of her marriage to J. Coleman Drayton. There were many suitors possessed of greater fortunes, but Drayton won against all his rivals. The marriage was performed by the Rev. Morgan Dix at the Astor mansion of those days. The young couple resided at 374 Fifth Avenue.

For a time everything went well, but rumors began circulating that Mrs. Drayton's tastes were not those of her husband's, and there was a disagreement. Mrs. William Astor did her best to smooth out the quarrels that occurred between her daughter and Mr. Drayton. As a possible remedy she took the young couple to London with her.

Because of the reported attentions of Hallet Alsup Borrowe to his wife, after a duel had been threatened, Drayton came to New York and instituted divorce proceedings. He based his suit upon statutory grounds, but before his action was tried Mrs. Drayton instituted counter-proceedings and divorced her husband.

It was in 1890 that it was first announced that Drayton contemplated divorce proceedings. Soon after Mr. Drayton and his wife went to Europe. Borrowe followed. Drayton challenged him to a duel in March, 1892. There was no duel, as friends intervened.

When Mrs. Drayton's father died it was found he had disinherited her, although \$850,000 was left to her children. Her brother, John Jacob Astor, however, subsequently settled \$1,000,000 on her. Drayton's application for a divorce was filed in 1894. Mrs. Drayton brought a countersuit on the grounds of desertion and nonsupport, and after a long litigation Drayton allowed the case to go by default.

Meanwhile Mrs. Drayton remained in Europe most of the time, coming to New York on matters connected with her suit. On Dec. 17, 1897, Mrs. Drayton married George Ogilvy Haig of the firm of Haig & Haig, London whisky merchants. Mr. Haig died on Dec. 27, 1905.

Mrs. M. Orme Wilson to Be Hostess

The annual meeting of the New York Women's League for Animals will be held on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. M. Orme Wilson, 3 East Sixty-fourth Street. Miss Rosa Anne Grosvenor will report on the work of the year just ended. Other addresses will be made by Henry W. Taft of the finance committee, Sidney H. Coleman, president of the American Humane Association, and James Speyer, treasurer.

The New York Times

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Women's League for Animals to Meet Friday; Mrs. M. Orme Wilson to Be Hostess to Group

The annual meeting of the New York Women's League for Animals will be held on Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. M. Orme Wilson, 3 East Sixty-fourth Street. Reports on the work of the league during the last year will be made by Mrs. J. Dyneley Prince, president of the organization, and by Henry C. Holt, treasurer. James Speyer, who served as treasurer for many years, is now honorary treasurer of the league.

Also among the speakers will be Miss Fannie Hurst and Dr. George G. Goodwin, assistant curator of mammals at the American Museum of Natural History.

During the afternoon, the league's bronze medal "for distin-

guished humane service," will be presented to Mrs. Anna Bermudez of Brooklyn in memory of the courage of her son, John Bermudez, who in a recent fire in their home lost his life in an attempt to save his pet cat, later rescued by Nigger, the dog mascot of Fire Engine Company 203, Brooklyn. The dog mascot will be present also, accompanied by a group of firemen, and will be decorated with a medal.

Officers of the organization include, in addition to Mrs. Prince, Mrs. Phillips Allen Clark, Miss Jean W. Simpson, Mrs. Alfred H. Caspary, Miss Rosa Anne Grosvenor, Mrs. Edward M. Weld, Mrs. Henry A. Alker, Miss Ruth Stillman, Mrs. George Bethune Adams and Mrs. Hernand Behn.

The New York Times

Published: January 24, 1937

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League for Animals To Hold Conference

Mrs. M. Orme Wilson Will Be Hostess at Meeting Tuesday

The annual meeting of the New York Women's League for Animals will be held Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. M. Orme Wilson, 3 East Sixty-fourth Street. Mrs. Wilson is a vice president of the league. Wilford E. Sanderson, director of the wild-life department of the American Humane Association, will speak on the necessity for conservation of animal life and for educating trappers to use humane traps.

Mrs. J. Dyneley Prince, president of the league, will give a report of the organization's work during 1939, in which period the Ellin Prince Speyer Hospital for Animals, maintained by the league, cared for 30,133 sick and injured dogs, cats, horses, monkeys and other creatures. The organization also operated about a dozen watering stations for horses and carried on humane educational work in schools and clubs.

The New York Times

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MRS. WILSON DEAD; LEADER IN SOCIETY

**Great-Granddaughter of John
J. Astor, Founder of Noted
Family, Widow of Banker**

KNOWN FOR LARGE PARTIES

**Last of William's Children Aided
Welfare Groups in City—Her
Mother 'The' Mrs. Astor**

Mrs. Caroline Schermerhorn Astor Wilson, last of the five children of Mr. and Mrs. William Astor and a great-granddaughter of John Jacob Astor, founder of one of the country's famous families, died yesterday in the home of a son, R. Thornton Wilson, at 1 Sutton Place, after a three-year illness. Her age was 86. Mrs. Wilson, the widow of M. Orme Wilson, banker, had a house at 3 East Sixty-fourth Street, but in recent years had resided with her son.

She was born in New York, a member of a family of great wealth. Her mother, the former Miss Caroline Webster Schermerhorn, who died in 1908, was one of the most distinguished society leaders of her time from the early Seventies until her death. Known as "the" Mrs. Astor, she compiled, with the late Ward McAllister, the celebrated "Four Hundred," which comprised her visiting list.

The original John Jacob Astor came from Germany to New York in 1783 and accumulated a fortune by heading a fur-trapping company whose activities extended to the Pacific Coast. Among his descendants are some of this city's largest real-estate owners. Among them is Vincent Astor, a nephew of Mrs. Wilson.

Mrs. Wilson was related to the Van Cortlandt and Livingston families. She was a sister-in-law of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, the widow of the brigadier general, and was a sister of Col. John Jacob Astor, who was lost in the sinking in 1912 of the liner Titanic when it struck an iceberg, and left a net estate of more than \$85,000,000.

Her Father Died in 1892

She was a great-granddaughter of Gen. John Armstrong, a Continental Army major, who was later a United States Senator, Minister to France and Secretary of War during the War of 1812. She was descended from Jacob Janse Schermerhorn, who came to Manhattan in 1636. She was related also to the Beekman family and to Viscount Waldorf Astor, husband of Lady Astor, American-born former member of Parliament.

Her father died in 1892. Her mother was hostess at many socially important gatherings, which Mrs. Wilson often attended in the twin houses, thrown open together, owned by Mrs. Astor and Colonel Astor at 840 and 842 Fifth Avenue, corner of Sixty-fifth Street. These were demolished some years ago and on their sites was erected Temple Emanu-El.

"Queen of society" here and at Newport, R. I., Mrs. Astor gave particularly lavish dances in the twin homes here. At the first ball given by Mrs. Astor on Feb. 3, 1896, in the two houses there was a cotillion led by Mrs. Wilson and Richard Peters from one end of the ballroom and by Elisha Dyer and Mrs. John Jacob Astor from the other.

Mrs. Wilson's marriage took place in 1884. Her husband, a banker, member of an old Southern family and a society leader, died in 1926.

Mrs. Wilson, until recent years, was an outstanding hostess, noted for her dinner parties. All of her parties, including her dances, were given in her spacious home at 3 East Sixty-fourth Street, which was close to the homes of her mother and brother. She traveled widely abroad. For many years Mrs. Wilson and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Vanderbilt, shared Box 3 at the Metropolitan Opera House, alternating as hostess on opening nights.

Active in Social Work

For many years Mrs. Wilson was vice president of the New York Women's League for Animals. She was long a director of the Beekman Street Hospital. In recent years she also had been keenly interested in the Merchant Marine Library Service, opening her house for teas during the weeks when books were collected for the service, her guests being requested to contribute books to the cause. She had also aided the scholarship fund of the Philharmonic-Symphony Society of New York and the Fresh Air Association of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. She was a member of the Colony Club.

Her sisters were Mrs. James Roosevelt Roosevelt, whose husband was a half-brother of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt; Mrs. James J. Van Alen, and Mrs. G. Ogilvie Haig, whose husband was related to the late Field Marshal Earl Haig, Commander in Chief of the British Expeditionary Force in the first World War.

Besides having been a sister-in-law of Mrs. Vanderbilt, she was similarly related to the late Mrs. Ogden Goelet, mother of the late Duchess of Roxburghe, the former Miss May Goelet; the late Lady Herbert, whose husband, Sir Michael Herbert, at one time was British Ambassador to the United States, and the late Richard T. Wilson, well-known horseman. She was an aunt of the present John Jacob Astor.

Besides her son, Mrs. Wilson leaves another son, Orme Wilson of Washington, former United States Ambassador to Haiti, and two grandsons.

A funeral service will be held at 3:30 P. M. tomorrow in Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church, Broadway and Wall Street. Burial will take place in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Other obituaries on following page.

MANSION TO HOUSE INDIA DIPLOMATS

East Sixty-fourth Street Home
of Late Mrs. Orme Wilson
Bought for Consulate

The big town house of the late Mrs. Orme Wilson at 3 East Sixty-fourth Street has been purchased by the Government of India as headquarters for its diplomatic representatives in New York, it became known yesterday.

The six-story limestone-front mansion, for many years the scene of important social functions, will house the offices of the consulate general of India, provide a permanent residential suite for that country's Ambassador to the United States, and provide quarters for members of its United Nations delegation.

The purchase of the property was negotiated on behalf of India by R. R. Saksena, consul general in New York.

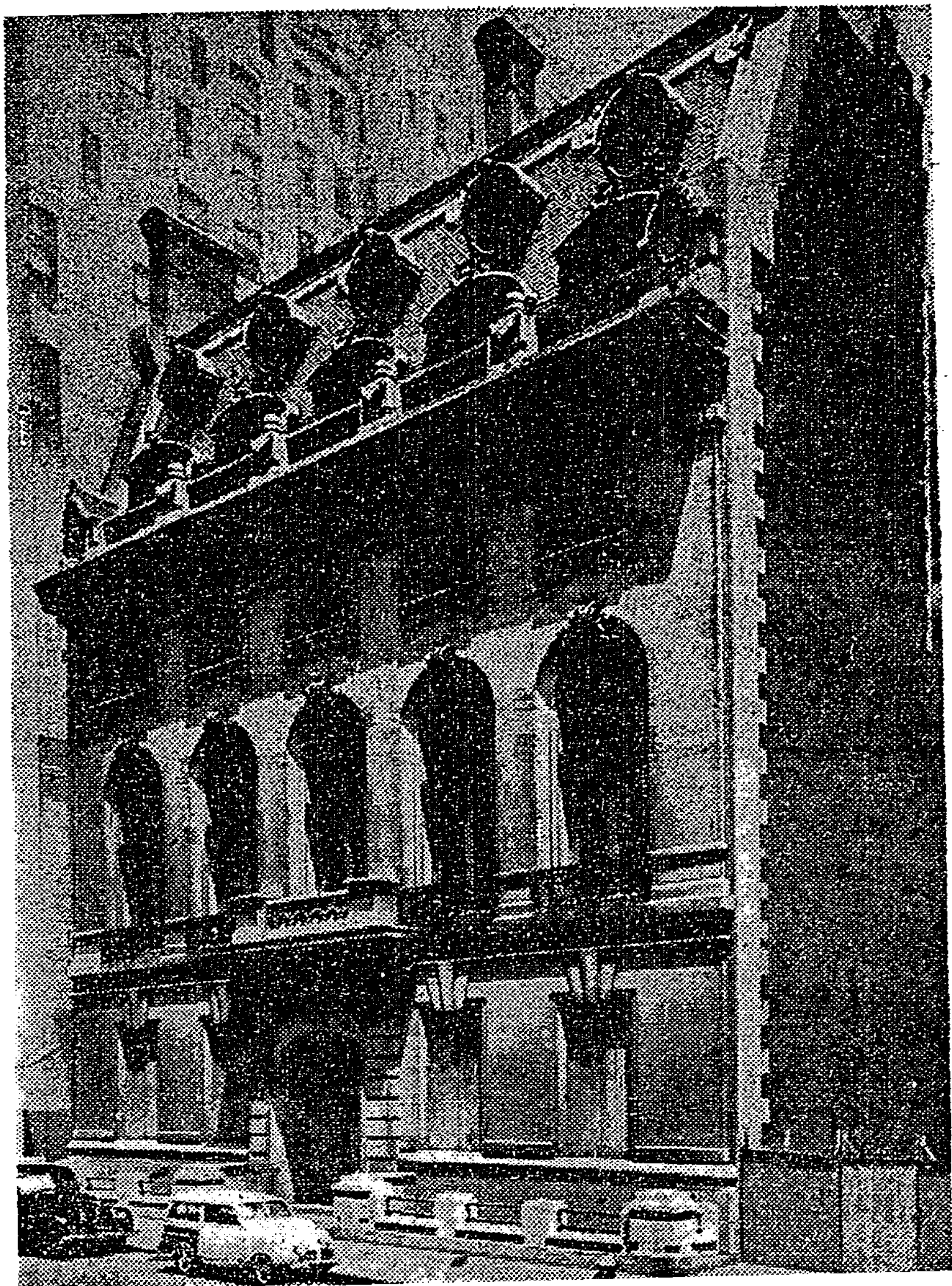
The Sixty-fourth Street property was acquired in 1896 by Mrs. Wilson, who prior to her marriage was Caroline Astor, and this was the first change of ownership since that time. She was a granddaughter of the first John Jacob Astor.

The present building was erected for her in 1902 from plans by Warren & Wetmore, well-known architects, and contains forty rooms. The wood paneling in the library, ballroom and the "yellow room" was done by H. Nelson of Paris, and much of the material and furnishings, including marble, wood flooring and tapestries, came from France.

At the first formal gathering held by Mrs. Wilson in the house, Mme. Lillian Nordica and Enrico Caruso, opera singers, entertained at a recital. In later years the mansion was the scene of many musical functions sponsored by the owner for charitable purposes.

The property measures 65 by 100 feet and was reported to have been held at \$500,000. The realty firm of Douglas Gibbons & Co., represented by Robert G. Morgan, vice president, acted as brokers in the sale and title was insured by the Security Title and Guaranty Company. Jackson, Nash, Brophy, Barringer & Brooks were attorneys for the Wilson estate, while Dunn & Zuckerman acted for the purchaser.

BOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



The former residence of Mrs. Orme Wilson at 3 East Sixty-fourth Street

The New York Times

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MRS. WILSON RITES AT TRINITY CHURCH

Three hundred persons attended a funeral service yesterday for Mrs. Caroline Schermerhorn Astor Wilson at Trinity Church, Broadway and Wall Street. Mrs. Wilson, widow of M. Orme Wilson, banker, and great-granddaughter of the first John Jacob Astor, died Monday at the home of a son, R. Thornton Wilson, 1 Sutton Place.

The officiating clergymen were the Rev. Donald H. Morse of the Trinity Church staff, and the Rev. John A. Bell of the Church of the Incarnation, Madison Avenue and Thirty-fifth Street. The latter read a selection from I Corinthians xv, used in the Order for the Burial of the Dead. The Nintieth and the 121st Psalms also were read.

The hymns sung were Charlotte Elliott's "Just as I Am, Without One Plea," Sabine Baring-Gould's "Now the Day Is Over" and Godfrey Thring's "Saviour, Blessed Saviour."

Near the coffin was a spray of Easter lilies and pink Vanity Fair roses. Two vases on the altar were filled with white lilies and delphinium, banked with huckleberry leaves.

Among those at the funeral were Mrs. Wilson's two sons, R. Thornton Wilson and Orme Wilson of Washington, former Ambassador to Haiti. Also attending were John Jacob Astor and his son, William; Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Astor and Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr. The ushers were Frederic H. Cruger and John Elliott.

Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery. The committal service was conducted by Mr. Bell.

ART AND FURNITURE FEATURE AUCTIONS

Modern Prints and Rare French
Objects Going on Sale—Other
Items of the Week

Two sales, one of modern prints collected by Ludwig Chadell of New York and the other of fine French furniture, paintings and objects of art removed from 3 East Sixty-fourth Street, home of the late Mrs. Orme Wilson, will be held this week at the Parke-Bernet Galleries, 30 East Fifty-seventh Street.

The print sale at 8 P. M. on Tuesday will have a selection of colored lithographs. These will in-

clude "Nursemaids and Cabs" and the rare cover for the "Album d'Estampes Originales" of Bonnard; Degas' etched portrait of Manet; Dufresne's "Shore Leave" and "Jeux des Cartes," brilliantly colored by hand; a group by Picasso, in it "Le Repas Frugal"; "Le Chapeau Epingle," by Renoir; lithographed and etched figure studies by Chagall and Kollwitz and woodcuts by Gauguin.

More than forty catalogue lots of prints by Toulouse-Lautrec, mostly lithographs, some of them in color, will include "Femme au Tub" and "Le Jockey." Among other prints are examples by Braque, Dufy, Matisse, Rouault, Klee and Grosz.

The furniture and art objects, now on exhibition, will be auctioned on Friday and Saturday. Among distinguished examples by master furniture craftsmen are Louis XV writing tables and desks by Adrian Faizelot-Delorme and Pierre Migeon, III; inlaid serpen-

tine commodes by R. V. Lacroix, J. C. Stumpff and Joseph Schmitz and chairs in brocade and other handsome fabrics.

In Louis XVI furniture are pieces by Pierre Roussel and Joseph Bzumhauer; a mahogany commode by J. H. Riesener and two salon suites.

Accompanying art objects and decorations are Brussels and French tapestries, Louis XVI figural mantel clocks, pairs of gilded bronze and marble or porcelain figural candelabra, old French soft-paste porcelain, Chinese ceramics and French silver.

The Kende Galleries, 119 West Fifty-seventh Street, will auction modern painting, predominantly of the French school, on Thursday evening. They are from the collection of V. deMargoulies of New York and Paris.

In about a half dozen works by Utrillo is his "Une Rue à Sannois," belonging to what is known as his "white" period; the 1938 picture in the Montmartre environs, "Le La-

pin Agile," and from the same section, "La Rue Cortot" of 1914, showing in the background the house in which the artist lived and worked.

Several works by Raoul Dufy include a study for the mural tracing the course of electricity which the artist executed to be shown at the 1937 World's Fair in Paris, a seashore view and "Aquarium," a picture of sea plants and flashing fish.

Other works are portraits and landscapes by Bombois; "Blossoming Trees in Bougival" by Vlaminck; a Paris view and a river scene by Signac; "Nude" by Rouault and example by Pascin, Marie Laurencin and Chagall.

The Plaza Art Galleries, 9 East Fifty-ninth Street, will auction furniture, paintings, porcelains and oriental rugs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A collection of arms and armor will be in the sale from Gimbel Brothers which has discontinued its sale of this specialty.

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Caroline Schermerhorn "Carrie" Astor Wilson

 [findagrave.com/memorial/74985683/caroline-schermerhorn-wilson](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74985683/caroline-schermerhorn-wilson)

Photo added by E. Middleton

Birth
10 Oct 1861
Manhattan, New York County
(Manhattan), New York, USA

Death
13 Sep 1948 (aged 86)
Manhattan, New York County
(Manhattan), New York, USA

Burial
Woodlawn Cemetery
Bronx, Bronx County, New York, USA

Memorial ID 74985683



Family Members

Parents

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William Backhouse Astor

1829–1892



Caroline Astor

1830–1908

Spouse



Marshall Orme Wilson

1860–1926 (m.(married) 1884)

Siblings