

OBITUARY.

MRS. JAMES E. MERRIAM.

Mrs. James E. Merriam died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Noble E. Pierce, at 1.30 Friday morning, after a very short illness. While she had had trouble a few days, the affliction taking the form of a light attack of bronchitis, she had been about the house and out of doors as late as the night before she died. The bronchitis assumed an acute form about 10.30 Thursday night, and Dr. Brennan was called and prescribed for her. Another attack came on shortly after 1 o'clock and the doctor was summoned again, but she had passed away before he reached the house, the heart action having become weak and her death resulted from a weak heart.

Mrs. Merriam was one of twelve children born to William S. Silley and Lucretia White of Washington, Beaufort county, North Carolina, and most of her life was spent on a southern plantation. James E. Merriam went south as a special secret service agent in the time of the war and after the issue had been settled, bought a plantation near the home of the woman who was destined to become his bride. Three children were the result of this union, Mrs. James H. Blake, of Norfolk, Va., Mrs. Leon M. Case, and Mrs. Noble E. Pierce, of Bristol, who survive her. A son William, who had almost reached manhood, and was a very promising boy, died five years ago, and his death was a blow from which neither his father or mother ever fully recovered. And this sorrow was followed in March, 1899, by the death of her husband, at the home of Mr. Pierce.

For the last few years Mrs. Merriam had made her home for the most part with her daughters in Bristol, but went south last winter and was gone for six months and spent her time visiting relatives and old friends in that section. She was a woman of great ability and rare attainments and coming as she did of a long line of planter ancestors, she inherited and exemplified in her life all the best traditions of a people famed for their hospitality and many good traits.

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