

## Sarita Morrison Brady Hutchins

(8 Dec 1848 – 20 Apr 1884)

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*The Evening Star, April 21, 1884*

### Death of Mrs. Stilson Hutchins

The painful announcement was made yesterday of the death of Mrs. Hutchins, wife of Stilson Hutchins, proprietor of the Post, a lady whose estimable qualities of heart and brilliant mind had won for her an unusually large circle of warm friends and admirers. Mrs. Hutchins, whose maiden name was Sarita Morrison Brady, was born in this city, December 8, 1848. The earlier part of her life was spent with her mother in Spain. Her education was completed at Mount De Sales convent, Baltimore. She was a niece of the late Gen. B.B. French. Previous to her marriage to Mr. Hutchins, March 6, 1883, she held a post in the Treasury, where she was known as one of the most efficient clerks in the department. After her marriage she went to Europe with her husband. Upon their return to this city, they took possession of their attractive new home, 1603 Massachusetts avenue, where her death occurred at four o'clock yesterday morning. Mrs. Hutchins was a most attractive woman and numbered among her sincere friends some of the most distinguished men of letters. Besides possessing many accomplishments, she had a rare critical faculty and a just literary taste. Her vivacity made her a most agreeable companion. Her deep sense of justice and her sensitive sympathetic nature led her to take an active part in works of humanity and charity. Her death is deplored by a whole circle of friends, who sincerely sympathize with Mr. Hutchins in his bereavement.

*The Washington Post, April 22, 1884*

### Obituary

#### Mrs. Stilson Hutchins

Mrs. Hutchins, wife of Mr. Stilson Hutchins, died, after a short illness, at her home, 1603 Massachusetts avenue, on the morning of the 20th instant at 3:43 o'clock.

She was born--as Sarita Morrison Brady--in this city on the 8th of December, 1848. The earlier part of her life was spent in Spain, where she was taken by her mother after her father's death. Her education was begun there, and completed at Mount DeSales convent, Maryland. She was married to Mr. Hutchins on the 8th of March 1883.

These are the principal events of a public nature pertaining to the life of a woman who, whether considered as to her mind or heart, must be looked upon as extraordinary.

Her intellect was of that keen, penetrating kind characteristic of the best of Celtic blood, allowing her to take at a glance and with but little apparent effort the essence of whatever was offered either in books or men. Her memory, which was as unusual as her other mental endowments, held in readiness for her use all that she had thus acquired; the combination making her one of the most brilliant, entertaining and ready conversationalists Washington society has ever known. Her critical faculty was of the finest quality, and made her judgment upon literary matters a standard among those who were so fortunate as to be numbered as her friends. She had great learning, and her knowledge was not only wide but deep. Had the time and opportunity presented themselves the world would have felt and acknowledged the influence of her thought, which was as original as it was forcible and strong.

But if there was one quality in Mrs. Hutchins' character which stood out, with greater clearness or in bolder relief than the rest it was her delicate sense of justice. Her sympathy and aid were always at the service of the oppressed, and she was ever ready to do battle with the weak against the strong. On this principle she molded her life even to its minutest details. Coupled with this sense of justice there was--

as there is always in truly great minds--a wide charity which recognized and pitied the weaknesses and frailties of our imperfect humanity. Those who were privileged to enter the circle of her inner life will remember a card fastened to the corner of her mirror. On this card were these words: "I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any fellow human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again." This was the guide of her life, and she followed it to the end.

Swan M. Burnett

*The Washington Post, April 23, 1884*

### **Mrs. Hutchins' Funeral**

#### **An Impressive Tribute of Loving Regard From Sorrowing Relatives and Friends**

The funeral of Mrs. Stilson Hutchins took place at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon from her late residence, No. 1603 Massachusetts avenue, Rev. Dr. Paret officiating. The contributions of flowers were almost unlimited in number and of the rarest varieties. An exquisite column of pure white roses, lilies of the valley and carnation pinks was sent by the President. A garland of roses was round around the casket--the gift of Mr. Treasurer Wyman, Mr. J.W. Whelpley, Mr. Widney and a number of the lady friends of the deceased in the Treasury department. An armful of the choicest roses were contributed by Maj. and Mrs. Dunn, of California, who telegraphed their wishes. A most elaborate representation of three floral arches surmounted by a white dove; with a cross of violets in the background, was the gift of Mr. Frank K. Ward. Assistant Secretary Coon, Mrs. H.W. Hutchinson, Dr. and Mrs. Roosa, of New York; Senator and Mrs. Blair, Senator Jones, of Florida, and Senator and Mrs. Palmer, of Michigan; Miss Ann Story, Mrs. Charles G. Ball, Dr. and Mrs. Stanton, and many others whose names were not given were represented by wreaths, crosses, pillows and broken columns. The name of Sister Mary Samuel, of the Convent of Mt. DeSales--with whom Mrs. Hutchins passed the last six years of her convent life--was attached to a beautiful bouquet.

The services were brief, simple and very impressive. The casket was borne to the hearse and from the hearse to the grave by six young men--the sons of Secretary Henry F. and Mr. Edmund F. French, nephews of the deceased. The body was interred in the French family plat, in the Congressional cemetery, adjoining the grave of the late Maj. B.B. French. Just north of the newly made mound is the grave of Mrs. Hutchins' father, who was buried in 1856.

President Arthur, Secretary Chandler, Mr. Blaine, Senator Vance, Secretaries French and Coon, District Commissioner Edmonds, Postmaster Conger, Senator Palmer, Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, Gen. McKee Dunn, Judges Richardson and MacArthur, were among those present at the house and at the cemetery.

*The Evening Star, April 23, 1884*

### **The Funeral of Mrs. Stilson Hutchins**

The funeral of Mrs. Stilson Hutchins took place yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock from her late residence, No. 1603 Massachusetts avenue. Noticeable features of the funeral were the large attendance and the rare display of flowers. Among those who sent flowers were the President, Treasurer Wyman, M. J.W. Whelpley, Mr. Widney, and a number of the lady friends of the deceased in the Treasury department, Major and Mrs. Dunn of California; Mr. and Mrs. Frank K. Ward, Assistant Secretary Coon, Mrs. E.M. Hutchinson, Dr. and Mrs. Roosa, of New York; Senator and Mrs. Blair, Senator Jones of Florida, and Senator and Mrs. Palmer, of Michigan; Miss Anna Story, Mrs. Charles G. Ball, Dr. and Mrs. Stanton, and Sister Mary Samuel of the Convent of Mt. DeSales. Rev. Dr. Paret officiated at the services, which were brief and impressive. The casket was borne to the hearse and from the hearse to

the grave by six young men--the sons of Secretary Henry F. and Mr. Edmund F. French, nephews of the deceased. The body was interred in the French family plat in the Congressional cemetery, adjoining the grave of the late Major B.B. French. Among those who attended the funeral were President Arthur, Secretary Chandler, Mr. Blaine, Senator Vance, Assistant Secretaries French and Coon, District Commissioner Edmonds, Postmaster Conger, Senator Palmer, Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, Gen. McKee Dunn, Judges Richardson and MacArthur.