

## Edward Clinton Merrick

(8 Apr 1824 – 5 Dec 1880)

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**Merrick.** At his residence at 4 p.m., December 5, 1880 Rev. E.C. Merrick. Funeral service from Waugh M.E. Church, corner of 3d and A streets s.e. tomorrow afternoon the 7th inst. at 2 o'clock.

*Source Unknown*

### **Rev. E. Clinton Merrick, A.M.**

Rev. E.C. Merrick, was born in Lebanon, Ohio, April 8, 1824, and died in Washington, D.C., December 5, 1880. Prof. Merrick spent his early life in Xenia, Ohio, where he acquired the elements of an English education. From a French gentleman, to whom his father gave the hospitality of his home, he learned to speak and read French with great fluency.

In his 16th year he made a profession of religion and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he remained a useful and consistent member until his death.

He was educated at the Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, from which he graduated in 1845. The year after his graduation, he was appointed a tutor in the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, Ohio, which position he held for three years. While teaching here, there were among the students two brothers, who with their sister were living in the town. The Professors and tutors, in order to give the sister the advantages of the University agreed to give her private lessons, and it became the part of Prof. Merrick to teach her French. On the day of his funeral the President's carriage conveyed Mrs. Hayes to the now desolate home to lay on the casket a magnificent floral offering, and to pay her own personal tribute to her former tutor.

On the 30th of December, 1846, he was married to Miss Maria E. Wells, who with two daughters survive him. At the close of the 3d year of his services as tutor, he felt himself called to the ministry, and after receiving the endorsement of the church at Delaware, was admitted into the Ohio Conference in September 1849, and filled the following appointments: Miamisburg, Logan and Harmer. At the close of this year, he became the principal of the Coolville, (Ohio), Academy. After two years service here he was elected Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in McKendree College, at Lebanon, Ill. The climate of this part of Illinois not agreeing with him, he was compelled by ill health to resign his position at the close of the year, and in 1855, he returned to Ohio and took charge of Mechanicsburg circuit in the Cincinnati Conference. After being three months in this work, at the request of Dr. (afterward Bishop) Thompson, President of the Wesleyan University, who very highly esteemed his scholarship and ability as a teacher, he was released from his ministerial work and re-appointed tutor, where he remained two years. Returning again to the work of the ministry he spent six years in the pastorate.

In 1863 the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, on making inquiry for reliable men to fill certain positions in his bureau he was directed to Prof. Merrick, as a man who could in every way be depended upon. He was immediately tendered an appointment, which he accepted and entered the government service. After a short time spent in this department, at the request of the Commissioner of the Land Office, he was transferred to the Interior Department and assigned a third class clerkship in the Land office. While in this office he was employed by the Commissioner of Agriculture to edit the Annual Report of his department, which work he performed after the work in his office was over. So valuable was he service thus rendered, that Commissioner Capron requested his transfer to the Agricultural Department where he received a fourth class clerkship. In this department he rendered most efficient service in preparing much of the material for the monthly and Annual Reports. For several years he was

connected with the Chronicle, in this city, which was under the management of J.W. Forney, Esq., his contributions being chiefly scientific. In the early part of this year (1880), he entered into the joint Editorship of the Washington World, and contributed largely to its columns. On coming to this city in 1863, he united with Wesley Chapel, the most prominent Methodist church at that time in this place. On the death of Rev. Mr. Sipes, who was in charge of the Fourth street M.E. Church, the Rev. G.V. Leech, the pastor of Waugh church, was transferred to 4th street. Waugh church was supplied in turn by the local preachers of this city. Prof. Merrick in his turn conducted the service, which made such an impression that he was requested to become the regular supply until the next session of the Annual Conference. He obtained a transfer of membership and took charge of Waugh Church, doing the whole work of pastor and preacher in addition to the regular duties of his desk in the public service. Under his care the church enjoyed great prosperity, and his ministrations are often now after seventeen years, spoken of by those who enjoyed them.