POET'S WIFE IS BURIED IN ST. GEORGE'S YARD

In St. George's historical churchyard, under a snowy mantle, this January 1917 lies the mortal remains of beautiful Sarah Eckford, wife of Joseph Rodman Drake, who wrote The American Flag. United in life, parted in death, is the sad ending of the lone story of the poet, and the in social circles in New York. Some- knew keen joys and sorrows, most of of Hempstead, daughter of the prosonly child. This little daughter was fishing in the prolific streams of born in New York in 1819 and was those far off days. named Janet Rodman Drake. Un-Staten Island, in eighteen-ninety. Philadelphia. in an obscure burial ground. Few what long, should be read by every have fired blood in his countrymea's yet it must be studied by statesmen, needed. In this year of 1917 his the graves of the Eckfords the Eng-"The American Flag." Each dying wanderer at sea

Shall look at once to Heaven and thee And smile to see thy splendors fly

friend, wrote the four last lines of bute to the wife of Joseph Rodman the poem. Hallock too, was young Drake author of "The American then, and enthusiastic. These lines Flag." are "Forever float that standard

sheet where breathes the foe, but falls before us? With Freedom's soil beneath our feet and Freedom's banner streaming o'er us."

That Hallock keenly felt Drake's untimely death, is evidenced by the wonderful lines that touch the heart strings of all who have lost congenial friends, he wrote as Drake's epitaph. Green be the turf above thee

Friend of my better days! None knew thee, but to love thee

Nor named thee, but to praise." Hallock and Drake wrote satirical and humorous verses. They knew something of the struggling life of maiden, who was one of the belles of the Journalist, until his ship comes of their union. Drake was a beau of fruits of his struggles. Drake to that period a very handsome and a pass on, before his ship came to member of a wealthy family, how- port. Drake's love for his country 157 Columbia Street, Hempstead, N.Y. ever more were at hand noted suit- was strengthened by his affection for ors though Drake's name was to be his wife. Sarah's father felt deep written on the sands of time, by love for the country of his adoption. "The American Flag." A great Henry Eckford's remains are in his match was anticipated for the daugh- plot at St. George's surrounded by ter of Henry Eckford, naval archi- children, and grandchildren's graves tect and builder of the navy of Lake Even his grandchild's husband, Com-Erie in 1812. Oliver Hazard Perry modore DeKay, is buried there, but and other brave men were his assoc- Drake's grave is a lonely one at iates, and his children were sought Hunt's Point. Henry Eckford's life thing of Henry Eckford's independ- his children died young. After Joence however ran in his daughter seph and Sarah Drake died, Henry Sarah's veins. He had chosen pretty Eckford was called to Turkey, in Marion Bedell, a demure little maid 1831 by the Sultan Mahinored. The Sultan wanted just such a navy as perous farmer, Joseph Bedell instead had won Lake Erie's battles, that of a lady of high degree," and Turkey too might triumph on the Sarah too, pleased herself. Sarah sea. There in a strange land, Henry was born in 1800, married Joseph Eckford died on Washington's birth-Rodman Drake in 1816 and died day, February 22, 1833. Marion Ecwhen 28 years of age. Drake died ford, his wife, died thirteen years afon September 21st, 1820: He was ter his death. Both rest in the soil buried at Hunt's Point, Westchester, they loved, Hempstead, where hours upper New York. His wife lies here of their relaxation had been spent, in quaint Hempstead, and also his in walks through the woods, and

A tablet has been placed in St. like her parents Janet was to live a George's Church to the memory of fairly long life. She married a noted one of Henry Eckford's daughters man, Commodore DeKay, and died at who married a noted physician of

She lies beside her mother in the It is of Joseph Rodman Drake, Eckford plot in St. George's God's however, who lies apart from wife acre. Joseph Rodman Drake's re- and child we would speak-The mains are far from wife and child, poem "The American Flag" if some visit his grave, yet his patriotic lines American. The constitution is long, veins at a time when enthusiasm was who guide the ship of State. Over s may well be read as they run in lish starling sing, from St. George's belfry, their vesper hymn to those passed on.

When Memorial Day comes round the Woman's Relief Corp 192 of this village will place "old glory" on Fritz Greene Hallock, Drake's Sarah Eckford's grave-fitting tri-

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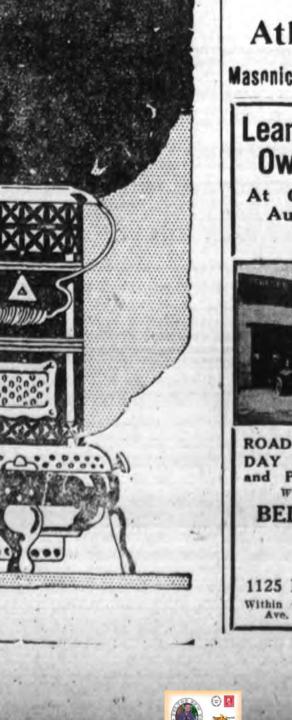
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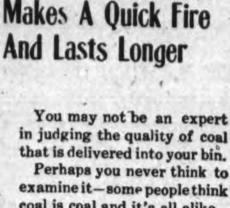
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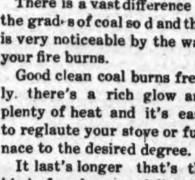
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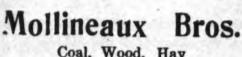












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