

# WEDDING RECALLS MYSTERY.

Mrs. Edith Howard, Whose "Husband" Was Woman, Weds.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Manchester, N. Y., Dec. 5.—One of the strangest mysteries that ever agitated the people of this part of the State was recalled to-day, when Mrs. Edith Dyer Howard was married to George Richmond, a Pennsylvanian, in the Baptist Church at Shortsville, near this village. Mrs. Howard had been a "widow" since March, 1912. Her first "husband" was

known as William C. Howard, but after death it was found that the supposed man was a woman, whose real name was Alice.

Alice Howard was legally married to Edith Dyer twelve years ago. The "husband" was then 30 years old, and came of a family well known and respected in this section. Since childhood male attire had always been worn by the supposed William, and if the "wife" was aware of the truth previous to entering upon the strange marriage, she never divulged it.

The pair lived together as "Mr. and Mrs. Howard," both working hard, the former as a farm hand, and the latter at housework. At intervals three children appeared in their home, two of whom were claimed as their own, and one said to have been adopted. These two survive.

The Howards mingled with persons of their social class, and none suspected the secret which was hidden under their roof. The absence of beard on the "husband's" face was a matter of as little comment as was the frailness of "his" frame, which was little more rugged than that of the average woman, except for the development that came with the rough farm work and the freedom of male clothing.

Howard was taken suddenly ill March 20, 1902, and died in one day. Then came the revelation. Mrs. Howard refused to explain anything of the mystery to those who inquired into it, and other members of the supposed man's family were equally reticent. The body was buried as that of Alice C. Howard.

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