

MRS. MARTIN ROTHSCHILD

Was Decorated By Pope in 1941 --Husband Died On Titanic

SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

EAST ORANGE, N.J., Oct. 29---

Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett Rothschild, who in 1941 received the Papal Distinguished Merit Cross awarded by Pope Pius XII, died here yesterday in her home, 75 Prospect Street. She had long been active in philanthropic affairs of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark and of New York.

Mrs. Rothschild was the widow of Martin Rothschild, New York clothing manufacturer, who died in the Titanic disaster. Mrs. Rothschild was rescued.

Her closest survivors are three nephews, Charles S. Barrett, Jr., John J. Barret (sic), and Charles S. Barret 2d, and a niece, Mrs. Daniel A. Leary.



Newark Evening News, 29 October 1943
(Courtesy of John Pulos, Michael A. Findlay, USA)

Mrs. Martin Rothschild (Elizabeth Jane Barrett)¹ was born on 10th February 1858 in Watkins Glen, Schuyler County, New York, the fifth daughter of James William Barrett (an English born innkeeper) and his Irish born second wife Mary ².

Elizabeth Barrett (a devout catholic), was married to the New York clothing manufacturer Martin Rothschild (a Jew) by Father Gallagher at Holy Name Church, New York City, on 2nd June 1895. Martin Rothschild was the uncle of writer and poet Dorothy Rothschild, later Dorothy Parker (1893-1967).

The couple, who were childless, lived at 753 West End Avenue, New York but travelled extensively.

They boarded the *Titanic* at Cherbourg as first-class passengers (Ticket No. PC 17603, price £59 8s).

Mrs Rothschild was rescued in lifeboat 6 along with her Pomeranian (one of three dogs that were saved from the *Titanic*). The dog had apparently gone undetected during the loading of the lifeboats, and during the night as no survivors remembered the canine until the morning of rescue. When the lifeboat came alongside the *Carpathia*, crew members at first refused to take Mrs Rothschild's dog. She protested that she would not leave the lifeboat until her dog was placed safely in her lap. She held the dog and was hoisted aboard the *Carpathia*. It was not highly publicized that Mrs Rothschild's dog had been rescued - largely due to the fact that her husband had gone down with the *Titanic*. The fate of the dog remains a mystery, descendants of Mrs Rothschild claim that it was killed in New York during a fight with another dog, while Argetsinger and Ellison (1995) record that the dog was killed under the wheels of a carriage amidst the confusion at the dock after arrival in New York.

Every summer she would return to Watkins Glen to stay in house she kept there (at the northeast corner of Porter and Eighth) and to visit relatives, she was always driven around town in a large, black Packard - complete with chauffeur. Residents of Watkins Glen remembered that while Mrs Rothschild lived comfortably, she never forgot those who less fortunate. She was extremely generous with her money and

was especially fond of children. She frequently dressed in black (mourning her lost husband) but always wore a smile that was unmistakable. She was accompanied in later years by a female companion named Mary Walsh. Descendants recall their Aunt Lizzie coming for thanksgiving dinners with Ms Walsh and a small dog in tow.

Her brother Thomas Barrett became a Roman Catholic priest and was active at St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen, New York in the 1920s. When he came to live with Elizabeth in East Orange, New Jersey they maintained a private chapel. According to descendants this was the only such private chapel in the whole United States and was maintained with the permission of Pope Pius XI himself. An indication of how active Mrs. Rothschild was in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark and New York may be found in the fact that, in 1941, she was awarded the Papal Distinguished Merit Cross.

In 1921 Elizabeth helped to extend St. Mary's Cemetery in Watkins Glen with the purchase, for \$1,000 of an acre plot of adjacent land. She also contributed to the paving of the cemetery road. When she died in East Orange, New Jersey on 29th October, 1943 she was buried at the impressive (and only) mausoleum in the tiny cemetery. The mausoleum also contains a memorial to her lost husband.



Plaques commemorating Mrs Rothschild's generosity.
(Courtesy of John Pulos, USA)

The beautiful mausoleum, of Gothic style enhanced by Grecian columns, is considered one of the finest in the region. The exterior is of Barre granite quarried in Barre, Vermont. Two large bronze topped urns flank the entrance. The interior is of Vermont marble from Proctor, Vt. Handsome bronze gates of lattice design permit a view of the crypts and the altar over which light comes in through a stained-glass window. An antique oriental rug is on the floor and a kneeling bench, out of reach, stands ready for prayer. The three foot bronze plaque before the altar tells the story. Martin Rothschild, born in 1865, died April 15, 1912 at sea in the "Titanic" disaster. Engraved on the bottom of the plaque: "Be thou faithful unto Death, I will Give You a Crown of Life." (Argetsinger & Ellison 1995)



The Barrett Mausoleum, St. Mary's Cemetery, Watkins Glen, NY
(Courtesy of John Pulos, USA)

Her requiem mass was conducted by Archbishop Walsh of Newark, a close personal friend of Mrs Rothschild's. It was Walsh who on 30th August, 1931 had consecrated the cemetery in which she would be laid to rest.

<p>Titanic Passenger Summary</p> <p>Name: Mrs Elizabeth Jane Anne Rothschild (née Barrett)</p> <p>Titanic Survivor</p> <p>Born: Wednesday 10th February 1858</p> <p>Age: 54 years 2 months and 5 days (Female)</p> <p>Last Residence: in New York City, New York, United States 1st Class Passengers</p> <p>First Embarked: Cherbourg on Wednesday 10th April 1912</p> <p>Ticket No. 17603, £59 8s</p> <p>Rescued (boat 6)</p> <p>Disembarked Carpathia: New York City on Thursday 18th April 1912</p> <p>Died: Friday 29th October 1943 aged 85 years</p> <p>Cause of Death: Cause Not Disclosed</p> <p>Buried: St. Mary's Cemetery Watkins Glen, New York, United States</p>	<p>Titanic Victim</p> <p>Born: Tuesday 12th December 1865 in Manhattan, New York, United States</p> <p>Age: 46 years 4 months and 3 days (Male)</p> <p>Nationality: American</p> <p>Marital Status: Married to Elizabeth Jane Anne Barrett</p> <p>Last Residence: at 753 West End Avenue New York City, New York, United States</p> <p>1st Class Passengers</p> <p>First Embarked: Cherbourg on Wednesday 10th April 1912</p> <p>Ticket No. 17603, £59 8s</p> <p>Died in the Titanic disaster (15th April 1912).</p> <p>Body Not Recovered</p>
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Mr. Martin Rothschild

Martin Rothschild was born in Manhattan, New York on 12 December 1865.

He was the son of Sampson Jacob Rothschild (1818-1899), a merchant, and Mary Greissman (b. 1824), both Prussian-born Jewish immigrants. His father had come to the USA around 1846, settling in Monroe, Alabama and was married to his wife sometime after 1850.

Martin was the youngest of five known children, his siblings being: Jacob Henry (1851-1913), Simon (1854-1908), Samuel (b. 1857) and Hannah (1860-1911, later Mrs William Henry Theobald). Through his brother Jacob he was the uncle of the poet and satirist Dorothy Parker, née Rothschild (1893-1967).

The Rothschild family had moved to Manhattan, New York around 1858 and Martin first appears on the 1870 census living with his family, his father being described as the operator of a fancy goods store and with his two elder sons in his employ. By the time of the 1880 census Martin was described as a stock clerk; he later operated his own clothing manufacturing company and amassed his fortune.

He was married on 6 February 1895 to Elizabeth Jane Anne Barrett (b. 1858). The pair were an unlikely couple; he was a wealthy Jewish man and she was his employee, a slightly older seamstress of devout Irish Roman Catholic background.

The couple, who were childless, lived at [753 West End Avenue, New York](#) but travelled extensively and were away for up to six months at a time.

Rothschild's 1900 passport describes him as standing at 5' 8", bald with brown eyes, a high forehead, a round face, small mouth, average nose and fair complexion.

Following a trip to Europe Mr and Mrs Rothschild boarded the *Titanic* at Cherbourg as first class passengers (ticket number PC 17603 which cost £59, 8s) and apparently occupied a cabin on [C-deck](#).

After the collision steward [Frederick Dent Ray](#) saw Mr Rothschild coming out of his stateroom on C deck. "I spoke to him and asked him where his wife was. He said she had gone off in a boat. I said, 'This is rather serious.' He said, 'I don't think there's any occasion for it.'" Then the two men casually walked up to A deck where Ray went to a lifeboat.

Martin Rothschild perished in the disaster and his body, if recovered, was never identified. His wife and her pet dog were among the rescued.

Rothschild is commemorated in the Barrett family mausoleum in St Mary's Cemetery in Watkins Glen, New York.

Notes

1. Family sources give the name as Elizabeth Jane Barrett, Dix 1865 census gives Eliza A. Barrett, Söldner (2000) gives Elizabeth L. Barrett.
2. James William Barrett (1824-1868) had 12 children in total, four with his first wife, Mary (? Aberhull or Noonan) (1827-1851) - Mary Ellen (1847-1920) and Elizabeth Ann (1848-1938) born in Seneca County; Catharine (1850-1914) and James William (1851-1851) born in Chemung County - and eight with his second wife, Mary Phelan (?) (1826-1887): Margaret Alice (1852-1922), Frances (1853-1918) born in Chemung County; James William Jr. (1855-1879), George Edward (1857-?), Elizabeth Jane (1859-1943), Thomas Henry (1861-1930), John Joseph (1862-1928) and Charles Stephen (1865-1934) born in Schuyler County.

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