

# Eugenie Rhinya Hamilton

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Dagmar Eugenia Maria Hettenburg-Otta and Rhinya



Prinzessin Dagmar Von Hettenburg-Otta und bei Rhinya

**Born:** 1 October 1878,

City of Windenburg, Grand Duchy of Windenburg

**Died:** 1 August 1933,

Windenburg, the Simish Republic

**Burial:** Windenburg Cemetery

**Spouse(s):** Charles Henry Hamilton (27 November 1901 – 3 July 1926, his death)

**Issue:**

- Charles Henry Hamilton II (stepson)
- Elizabeth Margaret Hamilton (stepdaughter)
- Alexander Bourbon Hamilton (stepson)
- Alice Eleanora Hamilton (stepdaughter)
- Stillborn son (February 1903)

**Full Name at Birth:** Dagmar Eugenia Maria of Hettenburg-Otta and Rhinya

**House:** Hettenburg-Otta and Rhinya (by birth)

**Father:** Ernest Louis, Duke of Hettenburg-Otta and Rhinya

**Mother:** Theresa Von Brunzhorn, Duchess Consort of Hettenburg-Otta and Rhinya

**Religion:**

- The Old Believers (before marriage)
- The New Religion (after marriage)

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. L. Hamilton".

Eugenie Rhinya Hamilton was the second wife of Charles Hamilton, and the main designer of the Von-Windenburg Estate following the end of the Second War of Simish Succession. She invested a considerable amount of her husband's wealth into the estate, and for the length of her marriage, and her brief widowhood, she is best remembered as the richest woman in the world. She helped rebuild the city of Windenburg after its annexation, promoted industry and economic growth in the region, and served as a buffer and mediator between the former nobility and the government of the Simish Republic.

## *Early Life*

Born in 1878, she was the second daughter and the last of three children of Ernest Louis, Duke of Hettenburg-Otta and Rhinya, and his wife Theresa Von Brunzhorn. Her parents named her Dagmar Eugenia Maria, although she was affectionately known as Minnie throughout her life. She was also the last member of her family born with a title of nobility. In 1822, her family fled to Windenburg when the five year First War of Simish Succession ended in monarchist defeat, establishing the Simish Republic. The Grand Duke of Windenburg then declared independence, and made his court a haven for monarchist supporters. The duchies of Hettenburg-Otta and Rhinya were lost to the reigning ducal family, who fled to Windenburg. The Grand Duke welcomed them, and legally referred to them as dukes, although they held no control over their former territories. Instead the family was granted several monopolies and state incomes.

In 1870 the Second War of Simish Succession, sometimes called the War for Windenburg, began when the armies of the newly formed Republic invaded. Unable to obtain any foreign support, in 1880 the Grand Duke capitulated, and surrendered to the Republic. Dagmar, as she was officially called, and her family lost all titles of nobility and all state incomes. However, the Republic did not extort as great a force over the population as anticipated. The former Grand Duke continued to host galas and balls, and the former titles of nobility continued to be used at these events. Although legally losing her rank and title at the age two, her family always presented her as Her Serene Highness, Princess Dagmar of Hettenburg-Otta and Rhinya.

## *Marriage and Family*

In 1900, the staunch republican and widower Charles H. Hamilton bought the Von-Windenburg Estate, a historic lot that numerous families had occupied since its construction. The former occupants fled after invading troops burned a great deal of the manor, and Charles was determined to renovate

the house, and find a new mother for his four children. A wealthy multimillionaire, he proved a perfect prospect for Dagmar. By this time her family had become impoverished, and owed staggering amounts of money to the republic, thanks to their constant spending and little income. In 1901 Charles proposed marriage at a charity event, and Dagmar reluctantly accepted.

The Simish President hoped that their union would serve to ease tensions between the two peoples, and ordered Charles to plan a lavish wedding. Dagmar resisted this, initially, but eventually gave in. However, the wedding of the century was almost not when Charles insisted that Dagmar convert to the New Religion, which took hold over the Republic following the First War. Furious at such a request, she heavily resisted, and news reports claimed that the couple might not marry after all. A week before the scheduled date, at the insistence of her entire family, Dagmar gave in and converted. At her baptismal ceremony she received a new name, as all converts did. Hating the name Dagmar, she elected Eugenia as her first name. Charles agreed, but altered to Eugenie so as to sound less Windenburgen. She took upon herself the middle name of Mary, and the last name of Rhinya, the latter part making reference to her noble ancestry. Charles insisted on that last part as well, as the former duchy of Rhinya had been one of the first to accept the Republic and elected a president; he hoped that it might remind critics of her connection to the so-called First Province. Seven days later, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 1901, Eugenie Mary Rhinya married Charles H. Hamilton in all due pomp and circumstance, thus changing her name yet again to Mrs. Charles Hamilton.

### *The Von-Windenburg Estate*

After their wedding, Charles turned over the design of the Von-Windenburg Estate to his wife, who spent his money lavishly, without thought or care. She had chandeliers crafted from gold and fine crystal, had china and glasses designed especially for her with onyx and mother of pearl accents, had her private bathroom expanded with floors made from imported marble. She had all her dresses personally designed as well, with rare, luxurious fabrics and gems imported from around the world. And for all the world to see, she presented herself with all grace, dignity, and refinement – a queen holding court.

The union did not prove happy for either person, however. Charles wanted a soft spoken companion, while Eugenie craved excitement and adventure. Her step-children resented her, save for her step-daughter Alice, and complained constantly of her over spending. Eugenie also repeatedly sent money back to her family, paying off their debt.

By 1905 the manor was completed, and the family began occupying their three story gargantuan home, with Eugenie throwing lavish parties at least four times a week. Her excessive spending and ostentatious style strained her relationship with Charles even more, and by 1907 his business trips increased in length and frequency. Ironically, reports show that Eugenie's spending decreased significantly during his absence. Although some contribute this to Eugenie's hedonic adaptation to her new surroundings, others claim that with Charles not around she no longer felt resentment toward her family for pushing her into the union and Charles for forcing her to convert to a new religion. As a result, Eugenie turned her attentions to other factors of society.

### ***Charitable Works and Political Activities***

In 1908 she founded the New Windenburg Society, a charity dedicated to restoring the local economy which had suffered heavily after the Second War. Using her husband's money, she bought up vast amounts of land near the harbor and began constructing and planning for a new port. For a reduced price, she leased out land to people so they could establish their own businesses. The rent was especially cheap, meaning that she technically lost money at first, but as the business's prosperity increased so did the rent, until the occupants were able to buy out their store, something Eugenie highly supported. By 1915 the economy was well under way to making a full recovery. Her charity caught notice of the President, who invited her several times to his presidential palace to discuss business matters and domestic issues over Windenburg's incorporation into the Republic. Via the New Windenburg Society, she hosted numerous charity events and galas, bringing together the two sides in hopes to bond over common issues. Eugenie's charm undoubtedly aided in her in those endeavors, and she was met with great success in lessening tensions. In the election of 1921, Eugenie became the first official representative of Windenburg in the Simish Republic as the Electress of Windenburg, a title she held until 1925 when she declined to run again for office.

### ***Later Life and Widowhood***

Her ambitions, now turned outward, appeared to have brought husband and wife closer together. Charles spent more time at home, and he staunchly supported his wife during her election, and continued to support her throughout her term as electress. However, in 1926, Charles, who had been suffering from what modern medical historians believe to have been bone cancer, suddenly died. This came as a shock to Eugenie, which plunged her into a deep mourning. While her husband left her nearly 40% of his assets, leaving her the richest person in the Republic, Eugenie spent little of the money as she shut herself off from the world. Her clothing now consisted of simple black gowns, and

the parties that once filled the colossal house became nonexistent. She continued to actively participate in the New Windenburg Society, but her roles were greatly diminished.

Several men sought to marry Eugenie, now a widow, including the future President of the Republic of Simland, Harvey B. Oswald. Eugenie denied them all, and in 1931 officially retired from public life. She kept little company, and rarely toured the now thriving port in Windenburg.

## *Death*

On August 1<sup>st</sup> 1933, Eugenie died in her home after a bout of Typhoid. Her funeral was held a week later, with nearly 3,000 Sims in attendance. She divided her fortune between her step-children, and her own nieces and nephews. She is buried in the Windenburg Cemetery, next to her husband. Shortly after her death, her step-daughter and constant companion Alice had an epitaph installed for her, reading

*Here Lies a Phoenix [sic],*

*Entombed in a Golden Bed.*

*Reborn again from the Ashes,*

*Not long may she Stay Dead.*

The reference to a phoenix may make reference to the phoenix on the coat of arms of the dukes of Hettenburg-Otta and Rhinya, of which she was descended.

## *Titles and Styles* (Note: all dates are in CSE, Common Sim Era)

**October 1<sup>st</sup> 1878 – November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1880:** *Her Serene Highness* Prinzessin Dagmar Von Hettenburg-Otta und bei Rhinya

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1880 – November 20<sup>th</sup> 1901:** *Miss* Dagmar Eugenia Maria Hettenburg-Otta-Rhinya

(After the Second War of Simish Succession her family adopted the names of their former duchies as their own family names)

**November 20<sup>th</sup> 1901 – November 27<sup>th</sup> 1901:** *Miss* Eugenie Mary Rhinya

**November 27<sup>th</sup> 1901 – March 1<sup>st</sup> 1921:** *Mrs.* Charles H. Hamilton

**March 1<sup>st</sup> 1921 – March 1<sup>st</sup> 1925:** *Mrs.* Charles H. Hamilton, the Electress of Windenburg

**March 1<sup>st</sup> 1925 – July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1926:** *Mrs.* Charles H. Hamilton

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1926 – August 1<sup>st</sup> 1933:** *Mrs.* Eugenie Rhinya, the Widow Charles H. Hamilton.