

G. A. R. BADGE WON BY WOMAN'S SONG

Unique Distinction Will Be Given Princeton President for Patriotic Labors.

MRS. COOLIDGE WAR HEROINE Will Be Made Honorary Member of Archer Post for Interest in Work.

PRINCETON, Ind., Feb. 27.—(Special)—Mrs. Irene Kirkman Coolidge of this city, known throughout southern Indiana as the singer of the "Star-Spangled Banner," is to be an honorary member of Archer Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, the post having decided on this tribute for her aid and loyalty to the old soldiers.

As a girl in her teens Mrs. Coolidge—then Irene Kirkman—sang the old "Star-Spangled Banner" as none other could sing it and aided in drawing recruits for the service of her country and in cheering up those who enlisted, and since the observance of Memorial day commenced she has never missed singing the "Star-Spangled Banner" during the exercises.

Her voice is as rich and strong as when she first sang the old song, nearly fifty years ago. To the old soldiers she has been a comrade, and the members of the local post felt that a public honor of some kind was due her.

Appreciates High Honor.

Mrs. Coolidge has agreed to accept the badge of membership, expressing at the same time her deep appreciation for it. The formal presentation of the badge will be made at a public meeting to be held soon.

The resolution adopted by the G. A. R. post says in part:

"Resolved, That in recognition of her long, patriotic service and unflinching devotion to the cause of the Union during the civil war and the cheer and inspiration which her patriotic songs gave to the boys of '61-'65, as they went forth to battle for the integrity of the Union and the maintenance of the flag; in recognition of her continued devotion to the cause of the soldiers in the years since the civil war and the readiness with which she has always responded to calls from this post for any service of patriotic song in public entertainment and on Memorial day, we, the members of Archer Post, No. 28, Department of Indiana, G. A. R., do hereby elect and declare Mrs. Irene Kirkman Coolidge an honorary member of this post."

Second to Be Thus Honored.

The honor paid is rather unusual, and Mrs. Coolidge is the second woman in the county who has ever received such recognition. The other honorary member was Mrs. Amanda Howe McClurkin of this city, long since deceased, who as a girl went to the front during the war and worked heroically in hospitals and on the field in easing the last moments of the dying, soothing and tenderly nursing the injured.

She endeared herself to the Gibson County soldiers in a way that was rare in those days when the devotion and heroism of womanhood, was hourly called upon. Mrs. McClurkin was made an honorary member of Archer Post many years ago.

Mrs. Coolidge was one of a committee of Gibson County women who went to Bardstown, Ky., while the Fifty-eighth Indiana Regiment, composed almost entirely of Gibson County boys, was in camp there and presented to the regiment a silk flag. Mrs. Coolidge sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" at Bardstown on that occasion.

Her father, Joseph Kirkman, was one of the leading men of that day in this county, and in the raising of recruits she often accompanied him and aided by singing. For this work she received the personal thanks of Governor Oliver P. Morton. She is still one of Princeton's best vocalists, and her happy, cheery disposition makes her a favorite with all who know her.

Her Songs Thrilled Boys of '61.

STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

1. O say, can you see by the dawn's early light,
 2. On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the night,
 3. And where is that band which was first to be broken,
 4. Oh, thus be it ever, ere our love be swayed or broken!

twilight's last gleaming,
 whose broad stripes and
 bat-tledores
 war's dead still
 breathe freedom's
 air!

ramparts
 at
 blood
 now

bursting in
 morning's fire,
 hireling and
 coward!

Star Spangled Banner!
 Banner! Oh! long may
 Banner, in triumph
 Banner, in triumph



MRS. IRENE COOLIDGE