

Amanda Howe McClurkin Obituary (1842 - 1885)

The following obituary was published in the Princeton Clarion on February 5, 1885. The attached page is from the periodical, "County Lines," April 2004, Volume 18, Issue 4. It was obtained from the Allen County Public Library Foundation through their Periodical Source Index (PERSI) service.

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Obituary taken from the Princeton Clarion dated 2/5/1885:

DIED: - On Thursday, January 29th, 1885, at the family residence southwest of Princeton Mrs. **Amanda (Howe) McClurkin**, wife of **James C. McClurkin**, in the 43d year of her age.

Mrs. McClurkin was the daughter of Mr. **Willis Howe**, one of the pioneer citizens of Princeton. She was born and raised here and from early childhood was a favorite among all classes. While she developed a geniality of disposition and a nobility of character in every sphere of her younger life, it was not until the breaking out of the late civil war that this disposition and character was manifested in its greatest grandeur. It was when she heard the appeals of the suffering and wounded in the cause of the Union and the flag, which she had been taught to honor and revere, that all the patriotism and loyalty of her being was kindled into life and activity. She felt that she ought to do something, and the question was what could she do. But it was not long a question. With her, to know a duty was to find a place and manner of doing it. She could not take her place in the ranks of those who faced danger and death in the field, but she could face danger and death in another sphere. She could go into the hospital and do something for the sick, the wounded and dying. This she promptly resolved to do. Leaving a comfortable home and friends with whom she need not know care or want, Miss Amanda Howe, a young lady of only 18, started for the scene of war and carnage. It was about the latter part of June 1863, when she embarked on board a boat at Evansville. The boat was chartered by that noble association of Christian men and women, the sanitary commission, and was loaded with hospital supplies and nurses, destined for the armies along the Mississippi, and around Vicksburg. Before the boat reached its destination Vicksburg had surrendered. The subject of this sketch proceeded at once after landing at that place to the camps of the Union army and engaged in the work of her mission. She continued there in the field hospitals for several months, and when her assistance was no longer needed, she returned home. Subsequently she went to Louisville and entered the service as a regular hospital nurse, and continued in that service until the close of the war. During this time she was in daily association with the sick and wounded. How she administered to their wants, and how she soothed and comforted the dying will never be fully revealed in this world. The record, and her reward, is with Him who said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Since the close of the war the deceased has been unremitting in her devotion to the soldier and the cause of patriotism and loyalty. She had seen too much hospital service to ever lightly regard the terrible sacrifice that was required to perpetuate the Union. She knew too much of the bravery and heroism of those who wore the blue to ever forget them. Her admiration for the soldier living was only equaled by her sympathy for the dead, and for those whom the dead left to the care of the world. She never forgot to do honor to the memory of the fallen braves on the day set apart for that purpose. The writer has personal knowledge of more than one time when the busy cares of life had induced others to forget or to be indifferent to any preparation for decoration day, and but for the zeal and energy of Mrs. McClurkin the day and its duties would have passed by unobserved. Her services on occasions of this kind are too well known to need repetition here. It was on account of such service, as well as for her faithful service in the hospitals in the army, that the Grand Army of the Republic, at this place, passed a unanimous resolution making her an honorary member of this Post, a compliment rarely bestowed.

The funeral services were held at the U.P. church, of which Mrs. McClurkin was a faithful and consistent member, last Saturday. The services were attended by Archer Post G.A.R., and a large concourse of friends and relatives, who thus attested their respect for the deceased. She leaves a husband and three children and other near relatives to mourn her loss. To these, the community in which she lived unites in a tender expression of sincere sympathy, and with a feeling that in a large degree they are called to share in the irreparable loss which is sustained by the family."

Contributed by member Georgia McElhiney

