

Obituary of John McClurkin

(May 4, 1792 – July 12, 1874)

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3d. That we tender our kindest sympathies to the friends of the deceased, and especially to her husband in his lonely sorrow.

MRS. ELIZABETH BOYLE,
MATILDA ARMSTRONG,
ANNA JOHNSTON,
Committee.

MEMORIAL ON THE DEATH OF JOHN M'CLURKIN.

At a late meeting of Elkhorn session, a committee was appointed to prepare a brief memoir of Mr. John McClurkin, deceased. The following facts were reported: Mr. McClurkin was a native of South Carolina. There he was married to Elizabeth Parks, with whom he lived sixty-two years, and was separated from her by death only for the brief period of *three days*. During the time of their married life they both continued steadfast members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and did much in word and deed to promote her interests. They were the parents of nine children—seven sons and two daughters—all of whom were spared to years of maturity. Six sons yet survive; two of whom are well known as ministers in the church. In the year 1833 Mr. McClurkin, with his family, removed to Washington county, Illinois; and in the year 1834, at the organization of Elkhorn congregation, was elected and ordained ruling elder, and in the exercise of this office he continued in that congregation until incapacitated by the infirmities of old age and the entire loss of sight.

He was characterized by firm convictions, strict adherence to the principles of the church, and indomitable courage in maintaining them. Early Sabbath morning, July 12th, 1874, having completed his 83d year, he was offered, "the hour of his departure being at hand." He said he was ready and willing to go; and we believe it was said to him that morning, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into that rest which remaineth for the people of God." In view of the foregoing facts, the session of Elkhorn passed the following resolutions:

1st. That we gratefully acknowledge the wisdom and goodness of the Head of the church in sparing this father and brother with us so long, thus permitting us to enjoy the counsel and experience of the aged.

2d. That we bow with humble resignation to the dispensation that took him from our midst, believing that since his record was completed here, he had a call to higher honor.

3d. That we regard his death as a call upon us to work whilst it is day, to be faithful in the discharge of official duties, and to imitate the departed in contending "earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints."

4th. That copies of this notice with resolutions, be sent to the REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN AND COVENANTER and *Our Banner*, with request to publish.

By order of session.

D. G. THOMPSON, *Mod.*
DAVID MITCHELL, *Clerk.*

DIED, at her home, Oakdale, Ill., Nov. 26th, 1875, Mrs. MATTIE A. THOMPSON, aged 26 years.

The disease which finally caused her death was bronchial consumption, but which, we doubt not, was the result of neuralgia, from which she suffered the severest paroxysms of pain, at times, during the last three years of her life. The place of her birth and the home of her childhood and youth was Antrim, Ohio. She was the youngest child of Joseph and Anna McKittrick, and the wife of Rev. D. G. Thompson. She was a most dutiful daughter and devoted wife. In her manner there was the rarest combination of childish simplicity and womanly fortitude. With her cheerful disposition, pleasant countenance and unassuming ways she became a favorite of all who knew her. Possessed of an exquisite taste and an amiable Christian spirit, her diligent hands and loving heart made her home attractive to the large circle of her acquaintances. Her qualifications as a wife made her invaluable to a pastor. Always cheerful, never discouraged, she kept the bright side of things foremost, so that, come what would, despondency seemed never in place. Her presence at church she regarded as indispensable, when attendance was possible; when sickness prevented, her parting words would be, "Husband, remember, I will be praying for you." Prayer and the promises were prominent in all her ideas of Christian faith and practice. In them she got her strength and comfort; and great need she had of them, for her sufferings were severe and her trials hard. She had many fond hopes centred in a lovely babe God gave her last spring, but he recalled it in a few months. Her own health was already failing, and her physicians advised change of climate and travel. She was then three months from home, and part of the time where she had to choose between spending the Sabbath alone or with those who did not regard its sanctity. It was a great trial, for she loved the

MISS. MARY J. DEARY, aged forty-six years, died at Bellefontaine, Ohio, August 16th, 1875. She was long a member of Utica congregation and continued so until her death. Her upright Christian deportment, warranted those who knew her, to expect that her end would be peace. She was long the subject of affliction, seldom enjoying good health. In her last illness, her sufferings were severe and protracted. A lady friend, who frequently visited her, talked and prayed with her, says: "Her equal I have never met with in humility, submission and full trust in the Saviour. She had not at all times a peaceful assurance, but believed the promise was to her—that this good work begun would be carried on. I said, you have been a long time in the furnace, but Christ is watching for his image. She replied, Not one stroke too many. Reading to her the description of the city of our God. She said, O how I wish I was there; but not my will, but thine be done. Her special desire in prayer was, for submission to the Divine will and the outpouring of the Spirit in her heart." A ministerial brother who visited her, says, "Her last illness was very protracted and severe; but there was evidently a growth in sanctification, and in a knowledge of her interest in the Saviour's love which culminated in a long "desire to depart and be with Christ."

Memorial of Elkhorn session on the death of John McClurkin :

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