

Howard Association Medal Recipients

1873 Yellow Fever Epidemic, Shreveport, Louisiana

A very interesting ceremony took place at the Board of Trade rooms in Shreveport, on the occasion of the presentation of the medals by the Howard Association to the ladies who distinguished themselves during the late epidemic by their noble and self-sacrificing conduct. President Simmons occupied the chair, and the Rev. Mr. Dalzell delivered a most feeling address. On one side of the medals was engraved the name of the lady, and "From the Howards of Shreveport, La." On the reverse, "For Christian kindness and heroic conduct. Epidemic, 1873." The names of the honored few were: Mrs. A. M. Deal, Mrs. Susan Spiker, Mrs. Ancie W. Phelps, Mrs. W. E. Kennedy, Mrs. Kate Maguire, Mrs. Slaughter Abington, Mrs. V. B. Simmons, Mrs. M. B. Dashiell, Mrs. George A. Pike, Miss Florence Burckett, Miss Lizzie Iler, Miss Temple Alston, Miss D. Murdock, Miss Teresa Nolan, Miss Eva Elstner.

1. Mrs. A. M. Deal
2. Mrs. Susan Spilker
3. Mrs. Angie W. Phelps
4. Mrs. W. E. Kennedy
5. Mrs. Kate Maguire
6. Mrs. Slaughter Abington
7. Mrs. V. B. Simmons
8. Mrs. M. B. Dashiell
9. Mrs. George A. Pike
10. Miss Florence Burckett
11. Miss Lizzie Iler
12. Miss Temple Alston
13. Miss D. Murdock
14. Miss Teresa Nolan
15. Miss Eva Elstner

2-26-1874 *The Telegraph-Courier* (Kenosha, Wisconsin)

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/884891818/>

"The Heroines of Shreveport" - the women's names plus Rev. Dr. Adams of New Orleans who received a similar medal. fultonhistory.com [New York NY Evening Express 1874 - 0078.pdf](#) (Note: Rev. Mr. Adams, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in New Orleans arrived in Shreveport Sept 15, 1873)

List of Medal Recipients

The Inter Ocean, 23 Feb 1874, Mon, Page 4

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/34995230/>

The Times, 15 Nov 1873, Sat, Page 1 List of the Dead. Page 2 History of the Epidemic.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/210522305/>

Mrs. Slaughter Abington

Mildred Slaughter Blackwell 1849-7/21/1907 (buried Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport)

Daughter of Dr. William W. Blackwell 1820-1908 and Mary Jane Dean 1825-after 1880 census.

Married 1st A.F. Abington on 10-21-1871 in Shreveport.

Married 2nd John G. Lynch, born 1843 in Ireland, died 1909 in New York.

Love in the midst of an epidemic.

In August of 1873, Private John G. Lynch, of the United States Signal Corps, was posted to the Shreveport Signal Service Office as assistant to Hugh Coyle. They kept track of the weather, river depth, etc. and provided information for the "River and Weather" column in *The Times*. One month into the epidemic, Coyle died of yellow fever on September 28, 1873, and Lynch took charge of the office until the end of the year when he was transferred to La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Reading between the lines, in the five months John was posted in Shreveport, he and Mildred fell in love. By one account, John, a native of Ireland, was very well educated, had a good sense of humor, a charming personality and was a remarkably versatile writer of prose and poetry. And Mildred obviously was a woman with a can-do spirit--a heroine of the yellow fever epidemic. Mildred was also married to A.B. Abington.

After Mildred shook loose Mr. Abington, the couple married in Iowa on April 19, 1875. In 1888, the marriage faltered after the death of their 10 year old daughter from typhoid. Mildred left John and New London, Connecticut (where John had quit the weather service to take up journalism) and brought the kids back home to Shreveport. In the 1900 census and newspaper articles, Mildred was matron at the Charity Hospital.

The Shreveport Journal, 28 Oct 1895, Page 4 - Dr. Blackwell visited Shreveport and reminisced: *He was here in 1873 and rendered valiant service in those trying times when the yellow fever scouraged this city...*

The Shreveport Journal, 22 Jul 1907, Page 5 - obituary of Mrs. M.S. Lynch (Mildred Slaughter Blackwell Lynch)
The Caucasian, 23 Jul 1907, Page 1 - ditto

The Shreveport Journal, 24 Nov 1932, Page 2 - obituary of Mrs. R.M. Douglas (Doris Breuggerhoff Douglas)
Mrs. Douglas' grandmother, Mrs. Mildred Slaughter Lynch, received the Howard medal for heroic services in nursing the sick during the yellow fever epidemic in 1873...

Article by Bessie R. Foster tells of Burckett and Iler medals. Includes image to left.



More about the Iler medal:
The Times, 08 Jul 1956, Page 53

Below: Daisy Murdock medal at Talbot Medical Museum
Yellow Jack Collection
<https://museum.wkhs.com/collections>



Left:
The Times-Picayune, 30 Jan 1874, Page 8
(New Orleans)
Messrs. Griswold & Co. manufactured the medals

Messrs. Griswold & Co. have on exhibition in their show window the gold medals manufactured by themselves for the Howard Association of Shreveport, to be presented to the different individuals who so assiduously labored in the cause of humanity during the fearful scourge of last summer. The design is a very tasteful one, having the name of the recipient inscribed on the pin. On the front is, "From the Howards of Shreveport, La.," and on the reverse, "For Christian kindness and heroic conduct."

Mrs. A. M. Deal

Anna M. (Cole) Deal 1821-1884

Wife of Shreveport cooper and city sexton Henry Deal.

FAG <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/192121614/anna-m.-deal>.

Buried Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport

Mrs. Susan Spilker

Susan A. (Dinwiddie) Spilker 1844-1908

FAG <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/42937094/susan-andrew-heath>

Susan Andrew Dinwiddie married Charles H. Spilker 5-6-1861 in Red River County, Texas. The couple lived in Shreveport until Charles' death 12-20-1878 (buried in Oakland Cemetery). Charles started out in the grocery business, was a notary, then justice of the peace. After Charles died, Susan went back to Red River County with their child David born 1876 and married Henry E. Heath.

Inscription on Susan's headstone.

AH, REST THEE NOW, FOR REST IS SWEET TO WEARY BRAIN AND WAYWORN FEET, NO TROUBLE
MARS THY PLACID BROW NOR ANY PAIN, AH, REST THEE NOW

Mrs. Ancie W. Phelps

Angeline "Angie" (Mitchell) Phelps 1838-1905

FAG <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/99972884/angie-phelps>

Angie's husband James E. Phelps (merchant/shipping agent) and two children buried Oakland Cemetery
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11025165/j-e-phelps>

Angie's sister Maggie Barbee buried Oakland Cemetery (Angie's mother Sarah Jane (Houston) Mitchell married Joshua Barbee in 1850)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/149995784/maggie-barbee>

1880 Census Shreveport - Angie running a boarding house



Mrs. W. E. Kennedy
Delia B. Kennedy 1842-1880

Wife of William E. Kennedy, drug and book store in Shreveport. Delia pulled her husband through the yellow fever ordeal - newspaper reported WE Kennedy "was taken by the fever" 9-25-1873 but he recovered by 10-4-1873.

FAG <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/51115611/delia-b-kennedy?>
Buried Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport

Obituary mentions her heroic conduct in 1873 yellow fever epidemic
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/210668316/?terms=%22w%20e%20kennedy%22&match=1>

The Shreveport Times, Sunday, August 18, 1907, Page 5 "Heroine of the Civil War"- Delia B. Kennedy
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/208891862/>

Delia's monument installed at Oakland Cemetery *The Times*, 18 Dec 1881, Sun ·Page 4
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/210317040/>

Another obit <https://www.newspapers.com/image/387655651/>

Mrs. Kate Maguire
1828/1833 to 8-9-1878

Died in New Orleans from yellow fever.

Obit <https://www.newspapers.com/image/212565309/> Article *Death of Mrs. Maguire*: nursed through the epidemic of 1873...received the Howard gold medal"

Wife of Joseph E. Maguire of Shreveport. About Mr. Maguire <https://www.newspapers.com/image/212568297/>
Maguire was appointed city sexton in October 1873

Mrs. Slaughter Abington
Mildred Slaughter (Blackwell) 1st Abington, 2nd Lynch 1849-1907

See Page 2.

Buried Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport

The Shreveport Journal, 24 Nov 1932, Page 2 - obituary of Mrs. R.M. Douglas (Doris Breuggerhoff Douglas)
Mrs. Douglas' grandmother, Mrs. Mildred Slaughter Lynch, received the Howard medal for heroic services in nursing the sick during the yellow fever epidemic in 1873...

Mrs. V. B. Simmons

Virginia (McKay) Simmons, 1849-1921

Obit : 8-9-1921 *Times-Picayune* - Virginia McKay Simmons, wife of Louis R. Simmons, interment at Greenwood Cemetery, New Orleans

FAG <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/90029233/virginia-mckay-simmons>

Buried Greenwood Cemetery, New Orleans

By virtue of his role in the epidemic, Mr. L. R. Simmons got all the press, but Virginia got the medal.

The newly married couple came to Shreveport from New Orleans in June of 1871. Mr. Simmons opened a general stationery and job printer shop. In 1878, he published the *Shreveport Daily Standard*. At the start of the epidemic, he was elected president of the Shreveport Howard Association, which must have been a relentless and overwhelming task. Mr. Simmons' storehouse was headquarters for the Howard Association during the epidemic.

Praises for Mr. Simmons <https://www.newspapers.com/image/536376041/>

Obit for Mr. Simmons

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/224946439/?terms=%22louis%20r%20simmons%22&match=1>

Mrs. M. B. Dashiell

Mattie (Gilmer) Dashiell b. 1844 in Illinois to after 1926 in probably Argentina

Mattie was the 3rd wife of William H. Dashiell, married 11-23-1869 in Caddo Co. 1860 Shreveport census, Dashiell was a druggist. Maybe of Ball & Dashiell Drugs and Medicines.

William H. Dashiell 1829-1871

Obit <https://www.newspapers.com/image/80902933/?terms=%22william%20dashiell%22&match=1>

Dashiell died 1871 in San Antonio, Texas, where he had moved for his health. Mattie is in San Antonio for the 1880 census. So I assume she returned to Shreveport after his death? Is this the same person or is there another Dashiell in Shreveport in 1873?

This FAG memorial <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38729939/william-henry-dashiell> reports Mattie is last found living in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1918 with a step grandson.

1899 Mattie Dashiell, officer of the International Home Institution of Buenos Ayres writes to friends in Shreveport <https://www.newspapers.com/image/599975208/?terms=%22mattie%20Dashiell%22&match=1>

The Times, 11 Aug 1926, Wed ·Page 6 <https://www.newspapers.com/image/210728628/>

Mattie, age 83, remembers.

Mrs. George A. Pike

Mary Louisa (Adams) Pike 1836-1890

Mary Louisa Adams was born abt 1836 <https://sites.rootsmagic.com/DEBBIEKC/individual.php?p=22990>. She married George A. Pike on 5-17-1852 in East Baton Rouge, La.

As usual, you can find out a lot about George but little about Mary. Early on, Mary's father Amos Adams had moved his family from Connecticut to Baton Rouge. Around 1867, George switched from publishing newspapers to banking. He opened a bank in Baton Rouge and another in Shreveport and moved his family there.

During the epidemic, the Howard Association appointed George to a three-man committee "to entertain physicians and nurses arriving from New Orleans."

The Pike's daughter Callie age 17 died Nov 1875 in Shreveport (obit); later body moved to family burial ground in New Orleans. "Daughter of George A. & M.L. Pike. Aged 17 years." FAG memorial <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21676667/callie-pike>

After Callie's death, the Pikes and their son Edward Adams Pike left Shreveport for New Orleans, then Baton Rouge.

The Times-Picayune, 23 Mar 1890, Sun, Page 3 "Baton Rouge, La., March 21 - Mrs. Mary Louise Adams, wife of Mr. Geo. A. Pike, died this morning at the family residence, of apoplexy. The interment took place from St. James Episcopal church." A Shreveport newspaper also mentioned her passing.

Mary's burial place is unknown, but likely she is with George and Callie, Section 2, Lot 13 of Magnolia Cemetery in Baton Rouge.

In George's obit, it said he had married "the beautiful Miss Lou Adams."



Miss Florence Burckett

Florence (Burckett) Jones 1850-1909

Married Monfort Stokes Jones

FAG and obit <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55393716/florence-jones>
Buried Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport

The Shreveport Journal, 27 Jun 1935, Page 42

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/600482597/>

Article by Bessie R. Foster tells of Burckett and Iler medals. Image of Iler medal. In 1935, Florence's daughter Mrs. Belton Pickett had the medal.

Florence's medal - photo in *Shreveport's Historic Oakland Cemetery* by Gary D. Joiner and Cheryl White



Miss Lizzie Iler

Elizabeth Orinda (Iler) Fisher 1843-1911

Obit 2-21-1911 *The Times*- <https://www.newspapers.com/image/208837612/> Tribute to her work in the 1873 epidemic.

Buried Oakland Cemetery, Shreveport (no FAG)

The Shreveport Journal, 27 Jun 1935, Page 42

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/600482597/>

Article by Bessie R. Foster tells of Burckett and Iler medals. Image of Iler medal. In 1935, Lizzie's daughter Susie Fisher Kline had the medal.

Of the Heroes and Martyrs Who Met the Scourge of Yellow Fever Here

The Times, 8 Jul 1956, Sun ·Page 53

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/211041618/>



Miss Temple Alston

Temperance Lucretia Alston 1837-1927
aka "Miss Temp"

FAG and Obit <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/156963929/temperance-lucretia-alston?>
Buried Greenwood Cemetery, Shreveport
Obit includes a tribute to her work in the 1873 epidemic.

Miss D. Murdock

Margaret Murdoch 1838-1917
aka Daisy
<https://ancestorsandothers.net/Murdoch.htm>

Miss Teresa Nolan

Teresa Agnes Nolan 1840-1925

After the 1873 epidemic, Teresa Nolan taught school for years in Shreveport, as did Mrs. Florence Burckett Jones. The June 17, 1894 issue of *The Times* carried this praise of Teresa and Florence: *These two ladies stand conspicuous in the community for their high character and qualifications as educators and it is generally known that they have contributed more by their zeal and intelligence and high social position to the elevation of the public schools of Shreveport than any other person or persons connected with the system here.*

Two days later, the June 19th paper reported the astounding news that the "committee on teachers," for reasons not revealed, did not renew Teresa and Florence's yearly contracts. In other words, they were fired in an arbitrary manner--probably enforced retirement. There was talk of the women taking "qualifying exams." The next year, Florence opened her own school.

In 1896, Teresa, her sister Mary (also a Shreveport school teacher) and brothers Alf (who survived a case of yellow fever in 1873 epidemic) and Frank moved to 1606 Carondelet Street in New Orleans.

In 1923 Theresa was judged not competent to manage her affairs and was committed to the privately-run Louisiana Retreat where she died November 11, 1925. Teresa is buried in St. Louis Cemetery No. 2, the resting place of her parents.

Death Notice: *The Times Picayune* (view at GenealogyBank), 11-12-1925, page 2.

Miss Eva Elstner

Eva (Elstner) Bowers 1853-1932

A Pleasant Trip Indeed.

A most pleasant trip was that made by a small party of ladies and gentlemen, on board the steamer Kalbaugh, by invitation of Lieut. E. A. Woodruff. The run was down the river and extended up Bayou Pierre, Mack's bayou, and a short distance up Cross bayou on the return. The incident of the evening was the presentation of a handsome flag to Lieut. Woodruff, by Miss Eva Elstner, in a neat speech, as a token of friendship and regard, on behalf of herself and other fair ladies. It was received by Lieut. Woodruff in the spirit in which it was proffered, and who hoped, in conclusion, that, as in the past, it would be again the loved and revered emblem of the freest and best government the world had ever seen. The trip ended, the party repaired to the residence of Mr. J. C. Elstner, where the evening was spent in dancing and the discussion of a bountiful feast. Lieut. Woodruff has made many warm friends here by his gentlemanly deportment and courtesy, and we but express the wish of many in saying, long may he be detained among the people whose best interests he has striven so zealously to subserve.

Here is a report of a pleasant outing on a beautiful day in July of 1873. Eva Elstner presented a flag to Lieut. Woodruff as a token of friendship and regard. The party ended with a feast and dancing at the residence of John Casper Elstner, Eva's father.

Two months later disaster struck.

Yellow Fever Deaths

9-30-1871 - Lieutenant Eugene A. Woodruff, 31

10-10-1873 - Edwin J. Elstner, 18, Eva's brother

10-18-1873 - John C. Elstner, 56, Eva's father

The Times, 05 Jul 1873, Sat · Page 2

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/210520416/>

FAG <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/193467064/eva-reid-bowers>

Buried Forest Park Cemetery, Shreveport.

Obit 12-13-1932 <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-town-talk-eva-elstner-bowers-obituar/24142310/>

Lieut. Woodruff is a known hero of the epidemic. From what I understand, Woodruff is buried in an Elstner plot at Oakland Cemetery.

Eva married Lloyd E. Bowers 1-21-1879 and had five children. I wonder if she ever talked about the yellow fever epidemic. I wonder if her medal still exists.