

## Hattie Elizabeth Burdette

( - 31 Jan 1955)

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**Burdette.** On Monday, January 31, 1955, at her residence, 1835 K street n.w., Hattie E. Burdette, beloved daughter of the late Oliver Perry and Emma Hyatt Burdette. Survived by four cousins, Mrs. Craig S. Atkins, Mrs. J. Mark Trice, George F. Linkins and Miss Alice Burdette. Friends may call at Gawler's Chapel, 1756 Pa. ave. n.w. (free parking opposite). Services will be held at Gawler's Chapel on Wednesday, February 2, at 3 p.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, January 31, 1955, p. A14*

### **Hattie E. Burdette, Portrait Artist, Dies: Did Painting of Lee**

Miss Hattie E. Burdette, prominent Washington portrait painter, died today at her home, 1835 K street N.W. Miss Burdette had followed a distinguished art career until about three years ago when her eyesight began to fail after a fall.

For many years she occupied a quaint, old studio on H street across from Decatur House. After she gave up the studio she continued painting at her home. She worked in oils and pastels and also was noted for her miniatures.

Miss Burdette was an unusual artist, in that she could copy famous portraits as well as painting portraits of her contemporaries with a high degree of accuracy.

Many famous personalities had had their portraits painted by Miss Burdette.

### *Did Lee Portrait*

She was commissioned to paint Gen. Robert E. Lee's portrait for Washington and Lee University, where he had been president.

Termed a strong and dignified interpretation of character, the portrait was original in that it was not a copy of any existing portrait or single photograph, but was composed by the artist from a number of sources.

Miss Burdette was a native of Washington. She received her art training here.

Her portraits have hung in the Capitol, Navy Department, George Washington Masonic National Memorial and in many cities from Cambridge, Mass. To Florida and Mississippi.

In 1940 the Arts Club exhibited her pastels, chiefly portraits, but including a few still-life subjects.

### *Active in Art Groups*

Miss Burdette was active in various art groups, including the Society of Washington Artists, the Water Color Club, Arts Club Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers and was formerly president of the latter. She was affiliated with the national American Artists' Professional League.

Survivors include her cousins, Mrs. Craig Atkins, Mrs. J. Mark Trice, Miss Alice Burdette and George F. Linkins, of Washington.

Services will be held at 3 p.m., Wednesday at Gawler's funeral home, 1756 Pennsylvania avenue N.W. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

*The Washington Post, February 1, 1955*

### **Miss Burdette Dies; Noted Painter**

Miss Hattie E. Burdette, who for several years was rated among the top of American portrait painters, died yesterday at her home, 1835 K street n.w.

A native of Washington, whose work was recognized by the United States Government, universities and other institutions, Miss Burdette had remained active until about three years ago in an art career that began before the turn of the century.

Some of the Nation's top leaders of Government and industry sat before her easel. Her portrait of President Woodrow Wilson when he first entered the White House was considered one of his best likenesses.

For many years she maintained her studio in an old house at 1623 H street n.w., across from the Stephen Decatur House, where in 1939 she put the finishing touches on a portrait of George Washington for Washington and Lee University. Her portrait of Robert E. Lee, taken from an old photograph, already had been completed for W. & L.

She was widely known for her originality and accuracy in her paintings of famous persons of history which she painted from a combination of portraits and photographs of her subjects.

She also won praise for the delicacy of coloring and accuracy of line and composition of the many miniatures she turned out. Some of her miniatures won honors at the Royal Society of Miniature Painters in London.

Failing eyesight following a fall forced her to give up her work about three years ago, but she remained interested in Washington art groups.

She is survived by four cousins, Mrs. Craig Atkins, Mrs. J. Mark Triebe, wife of the secretary of the Senate, Miss Alice Burdette and George F. Linkins, all of Washington.

*The Washington Post, November 20, 1938*

### **Who's Who**

#### **In Washington Art Circles**

In the first rank of American portrait painters is a Washington artist, Miss Hattie M. Burdette, the high quality of whose work has been recognized by the United States Government, universities and other institutions. The portrait of President Woodrow Wilson she made when he first entered the White House is regarded as one of his best portraits.

That portrait today, with one by Miss Burdette of the first Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, now hangs in Savannah, Ga., in the Wilson room of the old Presbyterian manse where President Wilson married his first wife.

Miss Burdette painted two portraits for the Navy Department, one of Admiral Dewey and the other of Secretary of the Navy Charles J. Bonaparte. Her portrait of John Langdon hangs in the United States Capitol.

In her portrait painting Miss Burdette has the high art of acquiring excellent likenesses plus the spiritual qualities of her subjects. Thus, while her portraits really look like their subjects, an accomplishment not true of all portraits, they have character and an appeal which make them most unusual.

Miss Burdette does not confine her work to full size portraits however. Her many miniatures have won high praise for the delicacy of their coloring and their accuracy of line and composition.

In a current exhibition of her flower paintings in oils Miss Burdette exhibits her great command of color, her sense of rhythm and powers of exact composition.

Miss Burdette maintains her own attractive studio at 1623 H Street N.W. She does a great deal of work in pastels as well as oils.

She is a member of the Society of Washington Artists, the Washington Water Color Club, the Washington Arts Club, Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society and the American Artists Professional League.

E.E.P.

McMahan, Virgil E. **The Artists of Washington, DC, 1796-1996.** The Artists of Washington, Washington, DC, 1995.

BURDETTE, HATTIE ELIZABETH

Portrait, still life and miniature painter in oil and pastel, born in Washington in 1872. She was educated in the local public and art schools and with Harold MacDonald. She received commissions for portraits of many notable people, some of which are in important public collections. Her portrait of John Langeton first president pro tempore of the Senate, is in the U.S. Capitol. She is represented in the National Museum of American Art with an oil portrait of James Smithson and several miniatures. Examples of her work are also in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Washington and Lee University, U.S. Navy Department, Western Reserve Historical Society and Corcoran Gallery of Art. She was a charter member of the Washington Water Color Club (1896), and the Society of Washington Artists, which she served as vice president in 1926-29. She exhibited with the Society almost every year during the period 1892-1932, winning an award in 1922. She also was represented in the Greater Washington Independent Exhibition of 1935. She was one of the founders and served as president of the Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington during 1933-34, and was a member and exhibitor with the Washington Water Color Club during the period 1896-1926. She continued painting until about three years before her death in the District in 1955. Her portrait of Mabel Boardman was included in a 1950 exhibition at the National Gallery of Art, on loan from the American Red Cross. REFS: AAA; ACW 1; ARCHITECT; BENEZIT; BIAP; CENSUS (1900); COSENTINO 2 (p. 181); FAIRMAN; GWIE; MALLETT 1; NGA 3; SW (1892-1932); WBD (1901-1943); WES (obit. Jan. 31, 1955); WWCC (1896-1926).