

Grace Julian Clarke

Centerville, Wayne County

September 11, 1865 – June 16, 1938

Grace Julian Clarke's family exposed her to social reform issues at an early age. She was the daughter of George Washington Julian and granddaughter of Joshua Reed Giddings, both of whom were abolitionists and members of the U.S. Congress. Joshua Giddings, her maternal grandfather served as a U.S. Congressman from Ohio between 1838 and 1843. Her father, George Washington Julian, served as a U.S. Representative from Indiana twice (1849-1851 and 1861-1871), during which time, he introduced the first federal suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1868.

After growing up in Washington, DC, Grace and her family moved to Irvington, a suburban community east of downtown Indianapolis in 1873, where she remained her entire life. She attended Butler University's preparatory school and continued her education at Butler University, where she earned an undergraduate degree in 1884 and a master's degree in 1885. She married attorney Charles B. Clarke on September 11, 1887.

Grace was the author of three books related to her father's life, and was a columnist for the *Indianapolis Star* from 1911 to 1929. She is credited with reviving the women's suffrage movement in Indiana, where she had become active in the national campaign for women's suffrage in the early twentieth century. She served as an officer in the Women's Franchise League and became the first president of the Legislative Council of Indiana, a lobbying organization, which she helped found. On January 20, 1920, Indiana became the twentieth state to ratify the national women's suffrage amendment (the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution). In May 1920, four months after the state legislature ratified the national suffrage amendment, the Women's Franchise League members agreed to dissolve and form the League of Women Voters of Indiana. Grace continued her involvement with the league, but also pursued her interests in the peace movement until her death in 1938.

- For more information about Grace Julian Clarke, go to: <https://www.revolve.com/main/index.php?s=Grace%20Julian%20Clarke>.
- For more information about *Writing Her Story*, go to: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

Additional and more detailed references available at the end of Women's History Month



Photo: FindaGrave.com

INDIANA
COMMISSION
for women
Writing Her Story