

Franklin Lee Burdette was born January 20, 1867 in Putnam County and died February 24, 1942 at his home in Huntington. He attended elementary schools near his home in Ona, Cabell County. He was graduated from Marshall College in 1886, received the L. I. degree from Peabody Normal College, Nashville, Tennessee in 1891, and an A.B. from the University of Nashville in 1892 and from the George Peabody College for Teachers again in 1920. He was a student in the graduate school of the University of Chicago from 1901 to 1902.

His teaching career began in the schools of Cabell County. From 1892 to 1893 he was Principal of Clarksville (Tennessee) High School; Superintendent of the Weston (West Virginia) Public Schools from 1893 to 1897; Superintendent of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind at Romney from 1917 to 1920. From 1915 to 1919 he was also a member of the State Board of Education. From 1920 to his retirement in 1938 he taught Latin and other subjects in the Huntington Public Schools, chiefly Enslow Junior High School.

Mr. Burdette was a member of the Baptist Church, of the Masons, and a member of both the Sons of the Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution. At the time of his death he was state historian of the latter organization and in former years had been state historian of the Sons of the Revolution. He had also served as state secretary of the Sons of the American Revolution and as historian of the General Andrew Lewis Chapter, Huntington. He was the author of many monographs on historical subjects including "First Counties and Settlers of West Virginia", "Early Forts and Battle Grounds of West Virginia", and "History of the Ona Community".