James Williamson McDowell was born in Mifflin County, Pa., July 30, 1839. He resided there until fifteen years of age when the family moved to Ohio. After five years they journeyed farther west, making a permanent home near Princeton, Ill. Here he attended private school and Academy until the Civil War broke out in 1861. He immediately volunteered upon the government's call for seventy-five thousand men, returning home after his period of enlistment, incapacitated for further immediate army service. He turned his attention to the medical profession. After three years of study, depending upon his own exertions for funds to carry him through—he graduated with honors at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa., March 1866, and immediately entered upon the practice of his chosen profession.

After one year, April, 1847, he was married to Miss Caroline G. Judi, and the young couple decided to locate in Malcom, Iowa, where there was a large field waiting a physician. He devoted eleven years of his young manhood conscientiously to his work here, afterward practicing 12 years in Des Moines, Iowa. He took a post-graduate course in Bellevue, N. Y., also a course in the Woman's Hospital in the same Medical College. The family then moved to Eustis, Florida, as a more genial climate, where he engaged in fruit raising—a most congenial occupation to him in which he fully recovered his former vigor and health.

Wherever he has lived he has been a pronounced Christian, trying to further every good and noble cause and letting his light shine for his Master and Savior. He was an elder in Malcom, Des Moines, and Eustis Presbyterian churches.

On August 12 he and his wife arrived among the mountains of N. C., for a change and recuperation. However, in three days he was attacked by disease which did not yield to treatment and he was taken to Merrickweather Hospital, Asheville, N. C., where after one week of careful nursing and excellent medical treatment he passed away, August 26, 1918.

Burial was at Malcom.