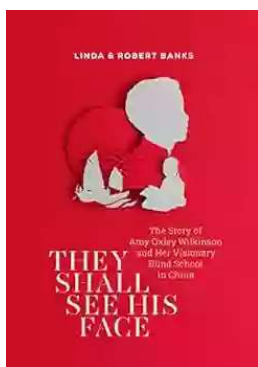


# The Inspiring Story of Amy Oxley Wilkinson and Her Visionary Blind School in China

Amy Oxley Wilkinson, a remarkable woman who dedicated her life to making a difference in the lives of visually impaired individuals, left an indelible mark on the world. Her passion and determination led her to establish a pioneering blind school in China, providing hope and opportunities to countless individuals who would otherwise be marginalized.

Born in the late 19th century, Amy Oxley Wilkinson hailed from a prosperous British family. Her upbringing exposed her to the challenges faced by the blind and visually impaired, instilling in her a compassion for those in need. As she grew older, she became increasingly driven to address the lack of support and educational opportunities available to visually impaired people worldwide.

Amy's journey to China began when she decided to venture beyond her comfort zone to truly make a difference. She believed that by establishing a school for the blind, she could empower individuals to overcome their disabilities and lead meaningful lives. With this vision firmly in mind, Amy set out for China in the early 1900s.



## They Shall See His Face: The Story of Amy Oxley Wilkinson and Her Visionary Blind School in China (Global Stories) by Teresa Korenstein(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 5568 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled



## Setting Up the Blind School

Arriving in China, Amy faced numerous obstacles that would have deterred the faint-hearted. She had to navigate cultural differences, language barriers, and bureaucratic hurdles, all while dealing with limited resources. Yet, Amy's unwavering determination helped her overcome these challenges.

Through perseverance and sheer willpower, Amy successfully established the first blind school in China. Located in Guangzhou, the school quickly gained recognition for its innovative teaching methods and comprehensive curriculum. Amy personally designed the program, incorporating subjects ranging from Braille literacy to vocational training.

Her approach took into account the unique challenges faced by visually impaired students, ensuring they received a holistic education that focused on both academics and practical skills. Amy's unwavering commitment to fostering independence and self-esteem proved transformative for her students.

## The Impact and Legacy

Amy Oxley Wilkinson's blind school transformed the lives of countless individuals in China and beyond. Her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of visually impaired individuals inspired others to take action. Not only did she provide education, but she also created employment opportunities for blind adults, enabling them to lead fulfilling lives that defied societal expectations.

Furthermore, the blind school opened doors for visually impaired students who were previously denied educational opportunities due to societal prejudices. By empowering these individuals, Amy shattered stereotypes and demonstrated that with the right support and resources, anyone can achieve their dreams.

As word of Amy's extraordinary work spread, her blind school became a model for other countries seeking to improve education for visually impaired individuals. Scholars, researchers, and educators from around the world flocked to Guangzhou to witness Amy's groundbreaking techniques and learn from her expertise.

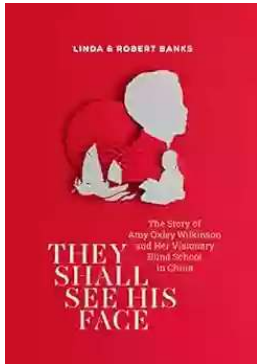
## **Remembering a Visionary**

Amy Oxley Wilkinson's relentless pursuit of equality and empowerment has left an indelible mark on the world. Her legacy continues to inspire and motivate individuals to challenge societal norms, advocating for inclusivity and equal opportunities for all.

Today, her blind school in Guangzhou remains operational, carrying forward her vision and providing invaluable support to visually impaired individuals. The impact of her work resonates not just in China but globally, as her innovative teaching methods and comprehensive approach continue to shape a better future for visually impaired individuals worldwide.

Amy's story serves as a powerful reminder that even a single individual with unwavering determination can spark significant change. Her legacy is an inspiration for us all to question the status quo, defy limitations, and strive to create a more inclusive society.

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Amy Oxley Wilkinson was arguably the most widely known female Australian missionary in China and the West in the early 20th century. She was the great granddaughter of colonial chaplain Samuel Marsden and granddaughter of celebrated explorer John Oxley. After rescuing an abandoned blind boy, she founded an innovative Blind Boys School in Fuzhou which is now a major institution in Fujian Province. Her husband Dr George Wilkinson set up the city's first hospital and introduced a program to address the pervasive curse of opium addiction.

Amy's holistic and vocational approach to disability education brought her national and later international recognition. In 1920, the president of the new Chinese republic awarded her the Order of the Golden Grain, the highest honour a foreigner could receive. Two years later, Amy and the School's brass band were presented to Queen Mary in England.

Amy's story highlights the significance of Australia's contribution to the development of early modern China and is a challenge to anyone committed to making their life count for others.



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